

Murdoch's new offer to staff

Mr Robert Murdoch, proprietor of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*, has said that dismissal notices issued to 210 clerical staff would be withdrawn if enough volunteers for redundancy came forward to replace them. Agreement has also been reached with several groups on more than 100 voluntary redundancies. Asked whether the newspapers would continue to publish, Mr Murdoch said: "I reserve judgement." Page 2

Exclusive Henry Kissinger



How to deal with the Soviet Union

Was détente a failure? Did it expose the West to Soviet adventurism? Henry Kissinger, former American Secretary of State, assesses his experiences and discusses the Soviet challenge. Page 10

No pay offer for nurses

Leaders of Britain's nurses, who want a 12 per cent pay rise, were "appalled" yesterday to get no firm offer when the claim was discussed at a meeting of the Whitley Council. The offer is likely to have to wait until next month.

Ski trip firm ceases trading

Erna Low, the travel company which pioneered family skiing holidays after the second world war, ceased trading yesterday and went into voluntary liquidation after the Civil Aviation Authority refused it an operating licence. The CAA said it was "no longer satisfied as the company's financial arrangements".

Concern over terror school

Mrs Thatcher said yesterday she was very concerned at events at St Saviour's primary school, Toxteth, where pupils terrorized and vandalized the school. The school's headmaster is seeking early retirement, and teachers' leaders said many local teachers were cracking under the strain. Page 2

NatWest reports record profit

National Westminster Bank reported record profits of £494m for 1981, only days after Lloyds Bank also returned a record. NatWest's profits rose £84m over the previous year. Page 19

Inquiry call over Amersham

Mr Merlyn Rees, the Labour Party's energy spokesman, has asked the Commons Public Inquiry into the sale by the Government of shares in Amersham International.

Bombs explode

Two car bombs have killed 12 people in a crowded Beirut street market. The first explosion destroyed half a dozen stalls. Blood lay splashed on the pavement for hours. Page 7

England win 4-0

England beat Northern Ireland, the champions, 4-0 in the first of the home international matches. Keegan, Robson, Wilkins and Hoddle scored the goals at Wembley. Page 23

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Letters: On the Community Market, from Mr Richard Cottrell, MEP; TV by satellite, from Lord Aylestone; girl offenders, from Mrs A. Weitzman and others.
Leading articles: Poland; Health charges for overseas visitors; East Timor.
Features, pages 8, 10
Cities in crisis: Glasgow; the new Oxford snobbery; love, work and Helen Gurley Brown.
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Professor Alec Rodger.
Special report, pages 13-17
A five-page report on Portugal, Western Europe's least developed nation, as it tries to connect to terms with joining the EEC.

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Warning from Mrs Thatcher

Budget hopes dampened by oil price decline

By Julian Haviland and Philip Webster

Expectations of tax reductions in next month's Budget were being raised too high, the Prime Minister said last night. She said that the recent reduction in the price of oil, by cutting revenue, diminished the Chancellor of the Exchequer's limited room for manoeuvre.

Speaking at the annual dinner in London of the Engineering Employers' Federation, Mrs Margaret Thatcher said that the Government's purpose was to tend and nurture the first fruits of recovery; but that would not be achieved by a lurch into irresponsibility.

"For our part we will resist the calls for easy options," she said. "Ulysses, you will remember, resisted the siren voices and came safely home to harbour."

The Prime Minister said that every day she read of proposals to reduce this tax or that. Together they added up to a formidable total. But the Government had announced, next year's Budget, and the purpose of the Budget was to raise the revenue.

The reduction in the price of oil, which was still continuing, would lower costs and was particularly welcome to industry. But the fact that this reduced the "revolving door" from North Sea oil was a factor which could not be ignored, for the Chancellor had to make the sums add up.

On his ability to do so rested confidence in the currency. Mrs Thatcher told her audience that there were good news. The increase last year of 7 per cent in manufacturing productivity was unprecedented during a recession, and the rise in the unit cost of labour in British manufacturing had been transformed from one of the fastest in the world to one of the slowest.

"We are becoming much less strike-prone with one or two notable exceptions in the public sector. In 1981 industrial stoppages were the lowest for four decades. We are becoming much more aggressive in selling overseas, in 1981 our current account surplus will almost certainly be the highest on record, and our exports have performed well."

Finally, and most important, we have much lower expectations about inflation. People were beginning to understand that the Government was going to get it down well into single figures, and it must keep it there. The Wholesale Price

Index in January rose by the smallest amount for nine years. Mrs Thatcher said that the other side of the coin was that the unemployment previously hidden in industry, now swelled the unemployment register. "Tragically for those involved, the recovery of employment lags some way behind the recovery of output."

But we are now well placed to take advantage of an expansion in world trade. "We have within our reach a new and lasting prosperity: more stable prices; a long overdue recovery in profits and investment; a revival of enterprise, followed by the new jobs we all so much want to see."

She said that one of the Government's main achievements was that management had regained its proper authority and responsibility.

"We have created the conditions within which management can manage. That is why we acted to cur away the controls on wages and prices, to reduce the top rates of tax and to remove exchange controls so that British firms could take their proper place in a world of multi-national investments."

She said that the engineering industry had shown how, throughout the private sector, the fatal obsession with keeping up with the pay of the Joneses was making way for recognition of the need to catch up with the performance of the Siemens and the Mitsubishi.

There was no substitute for the spirit of competition if British performance was to be improved. Mrs Thatcher reiterated her belief that new jobs would be provided with the introduction of new technology and more effective working habits.

The age of the computer had been greeted with apprehension but enabled people to do things which would have been impossible before the technology was developed.

"So I believe it will be with the microchip. Each new technology carries the potential of more jobs, wider employment, and more effective working habits. Unemployment caused by restrictive practices and over-manning leading to the loss of whole factories, and even whole industries, could not be blamed on governments. It was the fault of industry and it was far easier to destroy jobs than to create them."

Jobless total down by 25,000 this month

By David Blake, Economics Editor

February unemployment figures brought good news for the Government yesterday, with a drop of 25,743 on the January total to 3,044,878, 12.6 per cent of the workforce.

The underlying level of adult unemployment, which is a better economic indicator, showed a rise of 7,100, but this was the smallest increase since November 1979.

Officials in Government estimate that the underlying trend in unemployment, while still upwards, is showing less of an increase than a few months ago.

The latest figures fit in with the pattern built up in recent years of a sharp increase in January unemployment being followed by good February figures.

The improvement in the overall total was largely caused by a drop in the number of school leavers out of work, down from 150,000 in January to 134,000 in February. The traditional seasonal improvement at this time of year also played a part.

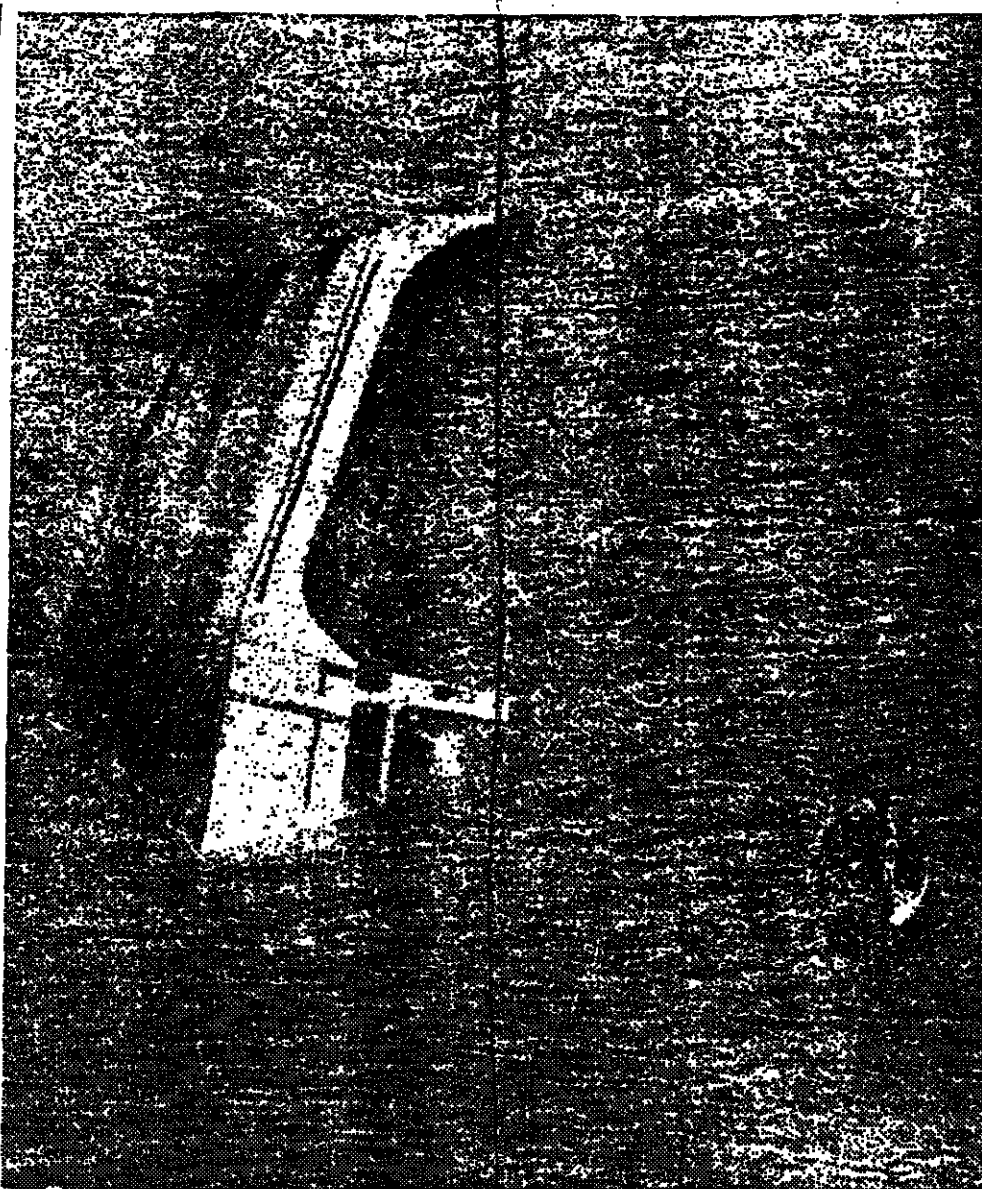
Adult unemployment, after allowing for seasonal factors, rose slightly to 2,836,000 or 11.7 per cent of the work-force. Just over two million adult men and rather more than three quarters of a million women are registered as without work.

The Government estimates that the underlying figure is probably growing at about 35,000 a month, down slightly from the 40,000 a month recorded in the autumn.

Although these figures bring some comfort to the Government, the estimate of vacant jobs in February seems home the fact that no big improvement is in sight. After allowing for seasonal factors there was a small fall in vacancies to 113,500 in February. This is the first fall in vacancies since September last year.

Unemployment is spreading slowly over the whole country, moving out of the traditional industrial heartlands into the South-east and London. There were drops in the North and North-west, but a big rise in the South-east.

Northern Ireland, with 18.1 per cent unemployment (22.3 in September last year), continued on back page, col 1



The St Bedan on her side after the engine room bombing.

IRA blows up cargo ship and threatens more attacks

From Richard Ford, Merville, Co Donegal

Rocket attacks will be made against British shipping entering Northern Ireland waters, the IRA warned yesterday after an armed gang sank a 1,250-ton coal ship in Lough Foyle by placing bombs in her engine room.

The masked Provisional IRA team bluffed its way on to the St Bedan, loaded with 1,625 tons of coal from Northumberland, by hijacking a customs cutter from Merville, Co Donegal.

The men, wearing balaclavas and armed with sub-machine-guns and rifles, told Mr. Roderick Black, the captain, to stop engines and anchor a mile from the Donegal coast. Five bags of explosives were taken aboard; and before the ten-man crew was ordered into a life-raft the IRA took photographs of the men.

One seaman said: "The guard with a sub-machine-gun was very calm. They were all in a high state of excitement. They took photographs for American propaganda sheets and they said: 'For this photograph we want you to shoot. Up the Provok.'"

"None of us said anything. But we all burst out laughing. They got a picture of us all laughing our heads off."

The IRA men then ordered the crew on to a raft and said they would tow them ashore. But after 10 minutes the raft was cut adrift and left floating out to sea on a strong tide.

Within another half an hour the pilots from the pilot station had managed to free themselves and rescued the crewmen on the raft, just as the

explosives on the St Bedan detonated. The vessel sank and ended on her side in about 40 feet of water.

The ship, owned by J and A Gardner, a Glasgow shipping company, is estimated to be worth £1m. Salvage experts said it was too early to say whether she could be saved.

Describing the attack, Mr Black said: "We were sailing up the Lough when the pilot boat came alongside and a man came on board. This was normal procedure, but the next thing I knew the man had pulled a gun and put it to my head."

About six masked men came on board. At least one was armed with a machine-gun and I saw another with an automatic rifle."

He said the leader of the gang gave a warning that British shipping coming to any port in Northern Ireland would be in danger of having rockets fired at them.

The bombing was a carbon copy of an attack a year ago on another coal ship, the Nellie M in Lough Foyle, an expanse of water separating the north-west coast of Ulster from the north-east coast of Donegal.

Mr John Nelson, assistant national secretary of the seamen's union, called for tighter security to stop more bombings of British ships. "We would ask ship owners to consider not allowing ships to go into this area during darkness. It is too dangerous," he said. "It is tragic that the terrorists were able to carry out a carbon copy of the attack a year ago."



St. Bedan's captain, Roderick Black: "A gun at my head."

Uganda fighting leaves 69 dead

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi, Feb 23

At least 69 people were killed today in fierce fighting between troops and guerrillas trying to overthrow the Government of President Obote, Uganda radio said.

Mr Paulo Muwanga, the Ugandan Vice-President and Defence Minister, tonight declared that he had narrowly escaped death when his convoy came under guerrilla fire on the Kampala-Entebbe road. Suggestions that he had been ambushed and four of his armed escorts killed in an exchange of fire with rebels were completely untrue, he said.

A fierce attack by anti-Government guerrillas on the Malire Army barracks in Kampala early today was a desperate attempt to capture the barracks and overthrow the Government, a Ugandan Defence Ministry spokesman said tonight.

During the attack, which began at 2 am and continued until mid-morning, hundreds of artillery shells, rockets and mortar bombs were fired—some from mortars placed on the steps of the Roman Catholic cathedral on Rubaga Hill, less than a mile from the barracks, according to the government statement.

The Defence Ministry says at least 69 of the attackers were killed and another 10 were wounded and captured. By contrast, the Uganda Freedom Movement (UFM), one of the underground groups which want to oust President Obote, claims that its forces overtook the barracks and captured large quantities of arms—"too many for our men to carry away," according to a spokesman.

Kampala residents were kept up all night by the sound of the artillery, rockets and small arms fire. It was described as the heaviest gunfire heard in Kampala since Tanzanian forces ousted former President Idi Amin in 1979.

The firing was concentrated in the south of the city, mainly around the Malire barracks, housed in the former palace of the Kabakas (Kings) of Buganda, and around the Uganda Army headquarters, half a mile away.

Uganda radio said the attack was launched by the Katwe, Mengo, Najjanankumbi, Kibuye and Kabwata areas.

The main road from Kampala to Entebbe Airport, which passes close to the barracks, was closed to traffic by troops. The firing died down by mid-morning, but sporadic gunfire could be heard in central Kampala throughout the day.

A government statement assured Ugandans at midday that the situation was now quiet after terrorists had been overpowered.

The statement said the terrorists had tried to take advantage of the relaxed situation in Kampala, because they had lost the support of people in the rural areas. It described the attack as a desperate one, which had been easily overpowered.

However, a spokesman for the UFM claimed that they had shelled the Malire barracks from a distance of about three miles, with 61 and 81 mm mortars. "This was new equipment which we had just moved in—it was a good test," the spokesman said.

He claimed that the guerrillas caused about 300 casualties in the barracks, and denied claims that they had been repulsed.

"We were not repulsed. We are still in strategic positions around Kampala," the spokesman said.

Law of the gun, page 7

Balloon goes up in 'free' Wales

From Tim Jones, Mold

Planners in the Pentagon and the Kremlin may not yet tremble, but Wales yesterday declared itself a nuclear-free country.

A thousand helium-filled balloons carried the message over the border to England and an Olympic-style torch of peace was lit. From Queensferry in the north to the Severn Bridge in the south, signs along Offa's Dyke stated that Wales has renounced the siting of any nuclear weapons within its borders.

The declaration came after Clwyd became the eighth and last county council in the Principality to decide that it would be a nuclear-free zone. Every county authority in Wales is now pledged to oppose any attempt to have nuclear bombs or missiles stockpiled or constructed in the areas they administer.

The Clwyd decision was the culmination of a remarkable campaign which has been waged by groups under the umbrella of the Welsh Anti-Nuclear Alliance.

In mid-Wales geologists searching for sites to dump nuclear waste were harassed unrelentingly until they had to concede defeat. In mid-Glamorgan, the county council was forced to reconsider plans for a nuclear defence command shelter.

For more than a year every county councillor in Wales has been lobbied and starting with Dyfed, the councils have fallen into line. Retired colonels and captains pleading the need for defence have been knocked down like so many targets on a firing range.

A message was sent by tele to the Prince of Wales, swanbath on his Caribbean holiday island. (He may muse that a limited nuclear strike against Fleet Street might not be a bad thing). It said: "In accordance with the ancient Welsh custom prescribed by Geraldus Cambrensis of the sweetest (and only) people speaking confidently to their Prince, we think you might wish to hear from us that today all the county councils of Wales have declared their counties nuclear-free zones, making Wales the first country in Europe to declare itself nuclear-free."

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"We were not repulsed. We are still in strategic positions around Kampala," the spokesman said.

Law of the gun, page 7

Perfume fraud trickster jailed for five years

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

An international con-man, wanted across Europe, and described as a "guiding light" in a conspiracy to defraud £271,000 from a fringe bank, was jailed for five years at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

Judge McKinnon, QC, was told that Mr Georg Pratten, aged 64, of Virginia Water, Surrey, was wanted for extradition to Italy and had twice been convicted abroad. The court was told his real name was Stegmund Sperber and he had been brought up in Austria.

Mr Pratten was convicted for his part in the defrauding of the National Union Bank which unwittingly advanced money to a perfume company on the basis of false invoices. Mr Maurice Thomas Wood, aged 58, of Wellington Court, Westminster, was sentenced to one year for his part in the conspiracy.

Mr Pratten, described as a diamond cleaner, was convicted by a jury on Monday at the end of a 13-week trial involving thousands of exhibits and costing at least £250,000.

In the course of the trial Detective Sergeant John Mulhally, of Scotland Yard's fraud squad, gave evidence for 14 days on a case which took several years to investigate. Yesterday the court was told that Mr Pratten was convicted in Belgium in 1959 and in France in 1962. During the

Big cheque-book fraud revealed

What did not come out at the perfume trial of Stegmund Sperber was that he was the mastermind of an international "cross firing" cheque swindle. Hunted by police across Europe, he took refuge in Surrey's stockbroker belt. Stewart Tendler tells the story for the first time, page five.

last war he was taken prisoner by the Germans in 1940, together with the rest of his family. Five of his sisters were killed but he escaped with his parents.

In his defence it was said that a sentence passed in France had been later dealt with in Austria and he had been acquitted, but the court was told there was no mention of this on his Interpol file, which carried the note "identity uncertain".

Claudio Mondino, a club owner of The Green, Upton, Norfolk, was found not guilty of conspiracy to defraud the bank and disbarred. George Scott, aged 54, and his son Ian, aged 30, of De Rauch House, Nine Mile Ride, Finchampstead, Berkshire, were found guilty and are to be sentenced.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Bistro ban on young jobless

The leader of a city council is asking a restaurant to apologise to nine unemployed teenagers who were turned away without explanation when they tried to get a meal.

The group from Sheffield was barred from Thomas's bistro, in York, while on a council-sponsored outing. Mr David Blunkett, leader of Sheffield council, said: "We arranged stimulating and interesting activities and the visit to York was one such trip."

"The kids were a mixture of black and white, from working-class areas. They were hungry and wanted a meal but were flatly refused entry. It is not as though they were already in the restaurant or were causing a nuisance, they were not even allowed in."

A spokesman for the owners of the bistro, John Smith Brewery in Tadcaster, said the manager thought the party was under 18. Even if the youngsters only wanted to eat, the manager had the right to exclude whom he liked, he said.

Solicitor killed woman he loved

A prosecuting solicitor for the West Yorkshire police drank himself to death after an argument during which he killed the woman he loved, a jury heard yesterday.

Mr Robert Wilson, the coroner, recorded that Miss Judith Goldthorpe, aged 33, a British Airways stewardess, was unlawfully killed and that Mr David Marshall, aged 33, of Stockbridge, Sheffield, took his own life. The inquest was told Miss Goldthorpe was pregnant when she died.

Accused man took own life

Mr Kenneth Crossley, whose body was found in his car, was found in his car, filled with petrol, in Dorset, last Wednesday, had been due to appear at Maidstone Crown Court later that day charged with demanding £350,000 from menaces from a group of men.

An inquest at Poole, Dorset, yesterday at which the coroner recorded a verdict that Mr Crossley, aged 56, of Julian's Road, Wimborne, took his own life in a bout of severe depression, was told that Crossley received a blackmail demand after they were told that jars of paracetamol had been placed on their shelves.

'No panic' for wave power

Scientists working to produce electricity from wave power want to continue their experiments in tanks rather than be rushed into full-scale tests at sea.

In a memorandum to the Select Committee on Energy, which met in Edinburgh yesterday, they said there was now an over-capacity of electricity production and renewable energy schemes did not have to be developed "in a panic".

BA strike spreads

The strike by 2,000 British Airways ramp workers at Heathrow airport, London, spread to Edinburgh airport last night when workers walked out in support. The British Airport Authority said over 30 workers had stepped in to do their jobs, and there were no delays or cancellations.

Murdoch makes new offer to staff over redundancies

By Donald Macintyre, Labour Correspondent

Mr Rupert Murdoch, proprietor of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*, last night promised that dismissed notices issued yesterday to 210 clerical staff would be withdrawn if enough volunteers for redundancy came forward to replace them.

In a move designed to appeal directly to clerical employees over the heads of local union officials, the management of *Times Newspapers* Ltd temporarily reopened, for clerical departments, the voluntary redundancy offer which lapsed last Thursday.

Mr Murdoch also announced last night that agreements covering voluntary redundancies of more than a hundred employees had been concluded with chapels in several unions.

The 210 clerical employees, all members of the National Society of Operative Printers, Graphical and Media Personnel, are due to receive their notices by post this morning in accordance with the decision made by the management on Monday after the breakdown of talks aimed at reaching agreement on voluntary cuts of 600 full-time jobs and 900 shifts a week.

Announcing that the voluntary scheme was being restored for a "short period," Mr Murdoch made clear that the mandatory notices remained in force but added: "If the necessary volunteers come forward to replace the people to whom the notices have been issued, the notices will be withdrawn and the people concerned will be replaced by volunteers."

A notice distributed at offices of both newspapers

£200m defence contracts axed since 1974

By Anthony Eving, Political Correspondent

The Ministry of Defence has cancelled contracts worth £200m since 1974, it has been disclosed in a Whitehall memo sent to the Commons Select Committee on Defence.

The note states that "from ministry records readily available" cancellation compensation paid out on 17 big defence contracts valued at about £40m amounted to £30m.

It adds: "There are, in addition, 12 major contracts with a total estimated value of some £160m which have been terminated but where settlements are still being negotiated, and its not, therefore, possible to say what the total cancellation cost will be."

A ministry spokesman said last night that publicity had been given to only three of the cancelled projects: the 1980-81, a battle tank, in 1980; the Skyflash missile, in 1981; and the Hawkwing, a wire-guided anti-air missile for use from helicopters, in 1975.

When pressed for further details of cancellations, the department produced three further projects: GWS 25, the heavyweight Sea Wolf radar; the GWS 20, the Sea Dart radar; and the Sea Wolf, a naval system. Those three cancellations were undated.

It was suggested that there might be grounds of commercial confidentiality for not naming the projects, but it was agreed later that further projects might be identified if security clearance was available.

The ministry note to the select committee shows that all defence contracts, except those worth less than £50,000 or less than nine months duration, include a condition that gives the ministry "the right to bring the whole contract to a premature end" for example, when a project is cancelled because of a change in government policy.

This condition "specifies the period of notice and states the general terms for settlement of any claim arising from the termination".

Terms include existing purchase of material which the contractor does not want to keep, payments made to subcontractors, severance payments for workers who are

made redundant as a result of termination of the contract, tooling and other overhead costs directly attributable to the contract.

The fact that the figures available show a compensation rate of 75 per cent, and that there are cancelled contracts worth £160m on which compensation has still not been negotiated, could bring compensation up to £150m.

Mr John Nott, Secretary of State for Defence, yesterday criticised the Labour Party for its criticism of the Trident nuclear programme will involve a dangerous rundown of conventional forces. (Our Parliamentary Correspondent writes).

In a stout defence of Trident, Mr Nott told the Commons that it would cost less than any major defence capability that Britain had ever had, both in capital and in running terms. Up to now the programme had hardly cost anything and the peak expenditure, the Government expected to go for the more expensive and bigger Trident D5, would be in the later 1980s.

That would be when the Trident aircraft programme, now costing £1,250m had run down.

Mr John Silkin, Labour's defence spokesman, told Mr Nott that the Government's nuclear policy was destroying the country's conventional capability. But Mr Nott told the House that, assuming the Government decided in favour of the larger Trident, there would still be a substantial real increase in spending on conventional forces.

The Royal Navy is ordering a new frigate under British Shipbuilders' contract offer, Mr Nott announced yesterday. The frigate is the eighth in the Type 22 Broadsword class, which the Navy is supposed to be abandoning in favour of the Type 23. But British Shipbuilders, anxious to keep their workforce in business, offered to take £5m off the total cost of a seventh and eighth Type 22 if the Navy would order them. The seventh has already been ordered and now the ministry has added number eight.

NO MENTION OF CASH TO CHARITY

J. P. R. Williams, Wales' most capped rugby player, told a High Court jury yesterday that he regretted his handling of the "shamateurism" affair which once threatened his career.

Under cross-examination by defence counsel in his libel action against *The Daily Telegraph*, Mr Williams said he did not make it clear from the beginning of the affair that money from his best-selling autobiography would go to charity.

Mr Williams, aged 32, of Llanannor, South Glamorgan, is claiming damages against the newspaper, Mr William Deedes, its editor, and Mr John Reason, its former rugby correspondent, over articles in February and March, 1979, which alleged that he had infringed his amateur status by accepting money for the book. Libel is denied.

Mr Richard Haughey, QC, for Mr Williams, had told Mr Justice Russell and the jury that the allegations could have driven the full back and former Welsh captain out of the game; and he was cleared by a Welsh Rugby Union investigation.

The hearing continues today.

stated: "It was not and is not our wish that people who wished to go have to stay and wanted nothing more than to do a good job here and be suitably rewarded."

The notice, copies of which were signed by Mr Gerald Long, INL Managing Director, remained ready to discuss compensation terms for a voluntary scheme.

The notice also said, in a passage strongly contested last night by local Natsopa chapel officers, that many clerical employees had been "actively discouraged" from applying for voluntary redundancy.

'Frustrated at every turn'

The notice went on to say that it "is false to say that anyone who applies for redundancy risks losing their union membership". That point was taken up yesterday by Mr Murdoch, who said that the union nationally, as distinct from chapels "has made it very clear that nobody who goes out in this scheme will not have their union card cancelled."

The Natsopa rule 44, which is sometimes waived in the case of large-scale redundancies, lays down that if a member accepts redundancy or early retirement "he/she shall thereupon cease to be a member of the society".

National officers that "voluntary" notices "last night that it had received assurances from senior leaders would not in this case lose their union membership."

HAUGHEY FACES REVOLT

From Our Correspondent, Dublin

Plans to supplant Mr Charles Haughey as leader of Fianna Fail, the Irish opposition party, are to surface at a meeting of the parliamentary party tomorrow. Dissatisfied party members are expected to meet in Dublin tonight.

A large number of Deputies, probably a majority, believe that the poor showing of the party in last week's general election was a result of popular disenchantment with Mr Haughey.

In opinion polls on the day leading up to polling Mr Haughey trailed in popularity by 20 percentage points behind Dr Garret FitzGerald, the Fine Gael leader, despite an overall Fianna Fail lead.

The dissident group within the party is promoting Mr Des O'Malley, a Limerick deputy and a former Minister for Trade and Industry. Another politician cited as a possible candidate is Dr Martin O'Donoghue, who is seen as a compromise. He is the finance spokesman.

A management spokesman said he understood that the agreements referred to by Mr Murdoch involved the Natsopa branch of Reuters, Link and Roller Makers and auxiliaries, one Society of Graphical and Allied Trades chapel, National Graphical Association stereo employees and the Society of Lithographic Artists, Designers and Engravers.

Mr Murdoch said that while the management had been negotiating with other groups in some cases for several days or weeks, it had been trying to negotiate with Natsopa clerical employees for the past 12 months and had been "frustrated at every turn".

He added: "We are not turning anyone out. We are trying to negotiate a settlement here to make this place economic and viable and save these two newspapers. . . . We are trying to save 2,000 jobs." Asked if he believed the papers would continue to publish, he added: "I reserve judgment on that for another week."

The management is hoping to begin negotiations over the next two or three days with other key chapels where agreements have still not been concluded, including NGA and Natsopa machine areas. The *Sunday Times* Natsopa machine assistants' representatives are to meet the management tomorrow.

Mr Barry Fitzpatrick, father of the *Sunday Times* Natsopa clerical chapel, said the latest move was "an attempt to pressure people who have been through a hell of a lot over the last few years". He added: "I think it will fail miserably."



Petronia Lashby, Lillian McGinn and Cathryn Lawton, all parents of St Saviour pupils and (right) Mr Michael Storey, chairman of the education committee.

Terror school headmaster 'shattered'

By Nicholas Timmins

The headmaster of the Liverpool school which was terrorized and vandalized by pupils aged nine to 11 was described yesterday as a "shattered man".

Mr Michael Storey, chairman of Liverpool Education Committee, said Mr Colin McLoughlin, the head of St Saviour's Church of England primary school, in Toxteth, had asked for sick leave and early retirement in July from the school, where pupils burnt books, smashed windows, terrorized younger pupils and daubed teachers' cars with canteen swill.

Mr Storey's announcement came as Mrs Margaret Thatcher said she was "very concerned" about events at the school, and as a teacher's union leader gave a warning that many teachers in Toxteth, some of one of last year's riots, were cracking under the strain.

Mrs Thatcher told the Commons at question time that "parents and all citizens have a duty to teach the principle of law and order and to see that it is upheld".

The Government, she said, would fight strenuously any reduction in the police of the area "in these difficult days".

Mr Storey said that the events he described made Mr McLoughlin. He was a man who had given a lifetime of service to education, much of it at St Saviour's. He is a shattered man the trouble has driven him to despair.

One other teacher at the school, which at one-to-16 has one of the best teacher-pupil ratios in the country, is under medical treatment, and yesterday Mr James Ferguson, secretary of the National Union of Teachers in Liverpool, said many were cracking under the strain.

As Mr Storey promised more staff for the school when it reopens on Monday after an

extended half-term closure, parents were being called to a crisis meeting with the staff, and police were investigating whether there were any links with last summer's riots. The Society of Physical Punishment (Stopp), said yesterday that excessive caning had provoked the trouble.

Mr Tom Scott, the society's secretary, said: "In the incident that sparked off the riot in the school, seven children were subjected to amass caning. We have information that this is not the first time groups of children have been caned."

A girl aged nine at the school said yesterday that she had been threatened many times by older children, boys and girls of ten and eleven, demanding 50p a week "protection money". The girl, who has three sisters aged eight, seven and four, all at the school, is an asthmatic, and said she was often beaten because she did not have the 50p to pay.

Her mother said her fears often brought on serious asthma attacks. The girl said she had been happy there, from the nursery class at the

age of three, until last year, when "nasty things" started to happen.

Another parent said her son aged 10 had stolen 10p from his father to pay protection money, and the caretaker, the school Mr Cyril Kain, aged 25, said he believed that teachers were fortunate to leave after school hours.

'Nobody has seen anything like it'

Local authorities, the Schools Inspectorate and teacher unions were united yesterday in believing that they had never come across anything resembling the breakdown at St Saviour's. (Our Education Correspondent writes).

No one could remember a school having to close because of disruptive action by pupils, except in cases of arson. School violence and vandalism appear to have levelled off since the rise in the early 1970s.

The inspectorate, in its survey two years ago of secondary schools, found that "the very great majority were orderly, hardworking, and free from any serious troubles".

A central role in such reactions is played by molecules of phosphorus. Since the common isotope of phosphorus, ³¹P, has a magnetic nucleus, it was feasible to use NMR spectroscopy to measure the levels of phosphorus in the muscular tissue of the sisters before and after exercise.

Compared to spectra from healthy individuals, those of the sisters clearly showed an abnormal response. The levels of high-energy phosphate molecules in their muscles dropped very rapidly and recovered only very slowly after exercise. The slow recovery of high-energy molecules accounts for the muscular fatigue of the sisters and fits well with the fact that one of them is deficient in an enzyme of the muscle, creatine phosphatase.

Only recently have spectrometers become available to allow the applications of NMR to the study of human biochemical disease. The advantage of this technique is that it is completely harmless. It does, however, require sophisticated and expensive machinery. The question now is whether studies such as those of Dr Radda and his colleagues will prove that the clinical value of NMR spectroscopy is sufficient to justify the purchase of spectrometers by hospitals.

Source: *Nature* vol. 295 page 69, 18 Feb. 1981. © Nature-Times News Service 1982.

Computer pact in Whitehall

By David Felton, Labour Reporter

Civil Service unions are close to an agreement with the Government on the introduction of new technology, but the two sides are still in disagreement over the terms of reference for arbitration to settle this year's pay claim.

The unions rejected the Government's pay offer, to 5.20,000 white collar staff, ranging from a nil increase to 5.5 per cent for the settlement due on April 1, and have opted to go direct to arbitration.

The nine unions and the Treasury, which now handles Civil Service pay, cannot agree terms of reference for the arbitration tribunal and it is likely that the hearing will take place on the basis of disputed terms.

The Government's "market forces" offer to civil servants, which is directed towards giving the largest increases to groups of staff where there are recruitment difficulties, falls well short of the claim submitted by the unions for 13 per cent increases.

The interim agreement on the introduction of new technology by government departments will be mainly for presentational

value and is unlikely to have any immediate effect because the main systems that the Government wants to introduce will not be ready for some years.

The interim agreement will run for two years and is unlikely to affect the introduction of computers into the Paye system, which is not due for completion until the latter part of the decade.

The Government has agreed that there will be no compulsory redundancies as a result of the introduction of new technology.

Disaffection over the outcome of last year's Civil Service pay dispute has led to a revived debate in the Inland Revenue Staff Federation, with 53,000 members, over whether it should set up a political fund to support the Labour Party (Philip Webster writes).

Opposition has come from Lord Houghton of Sowerby, a former general secretary of the federation, who questioned whether affiliation to any party is wise in an era of rapid political change.

The debate is being conducted through the columns of the federation's journal, *Taxes*.

Mr John Willman, its editor, said yesterday: "After what happened last year there is a growing feeling among our members that their pay and conditions have moved into the political arena. This year the Government has said that it reserves the right to overturn any arbitration award that is made by putting it to Parliament. If that happened it would be explosive."

Lord Houghton, writing in *Taxes*, says: "My own approach is one of the strongest doubt whether the control of a political party by trade union money and power is desirable at all. Both the Labour and Conservative parties represent class interests."

The union block vote at Labour conferences was scarcely the representative voice of their members on contemporary political affairs. "There are signs today of a reaction in the country against the class-dominated and class-based two-party system. This is showing itself in the dramatic upsurge of the Social Demo-

Hard times at the Round House

Malcolm Clarke



Thelma Holt, the director, outside the Round House yesterday. Below, right: The theatre in its original form as the New Great Circular Engine House.

By David Hewson

The arts venue originally built as an engine shed by Robert Stephenson, the railway engineer, faces bankruptcy because of uncertainty over local authority grants. The Round House Theatre is in Camden, north London, which started life in 1847 and later served as a wine store and factory before being turned to more aesthetic matters, may close in a matter of weeks, Thelma Holt, its director, said yesterday.

It is not the first time financial difficulties have struck the unlikely venue, which is normally used for performances by international theatre companies and orchestras, occasionally brightened by more bizarre performances.

Vanessa Redgrave spent a memorable period in the building surrounded by a large pool of water for *The Lady from the Sea*, and a production by the Science Fiction Theatre of Liverpool featured a live goat and a cast given to leaping into the audience offering free marijuana cigarettes.

But Miss Holt said the latest

crisis was more serious and pressing than any the Round House had faced. "There is no point in my hiding the fact that we are in dire straits. I could not pay my bills if I were asked to tomorrow."

The venue, which is run by a charitable trust, blames its difficulties on uncertainties over its grant income. Last year it received £90,000 from the Arts Council, £20,000 from the Greater London Council and £10,000 and an exemption from rates from the London

Borough of Camden. The Arts Council is expected to increase its grant by about 6 per cent this year, but the GLC and Camden are undecided about how much to give.

Miss Holt denied that she was trying to rush the authorities into an early decision. She said she had made them aware since May that the theatre had financial problems.

Foco Novo, a visiting company, opened at the Round House tonight with Bertolt Brecht's *Edward II*.

Employers in protest at rate rise

From Craig Seton, Bristol

Chairmen, managing directors and senior executives of some of the largest industries in Avon uncharacteristically took to the streets of Bristol yesterday in protest against a proposed rates rise of just under 40 per cent, which is due to be approved by the county council tomorrow.

Nearly eighty of them, in suits and ties and clearly feeling the cold, picketed the offices of the Labour-controlled Avon County Council, politely handing out leaflets, saying that the 39.8 per cent increase could force some of them out of business and increase unemployment.

The unlikely but well behaved display of managers' militancy was organized by the local branch of the Confederation of British Industry as part of a last-ditch campaign, as they call it, to stop the rise, which the CBI says will take an additional £18.25m from industry and commerce in Avon.

A full-page advertisement in the local morning newspaper was also published yesterday giving the names and telephone numbers of every member of the county council and asking people to ring them to protest at the rates rise. The Labour group insists that the rise has been forced on it by fierce government cuts in the rate support grant.

The protesters began after a working breakfast at a four star hotel and kept up their picket throughout the day. There were no banners or placards.

Mr John Main, the south-west chairman of the CBI, said it had gone extremely well. He was clearly aware of the publicity power of such a demonstration, inevitably dubbed the "pinstripe protest". But he insisted that it had a serious point.

Mr Main said the proposed rise in Avon compared with only 6.9 per cent for Somerset, 9.6 per cent for Gloucestershire and 13.9 per cent for Wiltshire.

SDP FIGHTS 19 SEATS IN WALES

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

National negotiators of the Liberal and Social Democratic parties were hopeful last night that they would come close to meeting their March 31 deadline for the division of parliamentary seats.

Guarded optimism was evident in both camps as negotiators in Cardiff signed an agreement under which the SDP will fight 19 of the Welsh parliamentary seats and the Liberals 17. And the national negotiators, after their fortnightly meeting in London, announced provisional deals for the 16 seats in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight and 25 seats in the West Midlands.

The greatest relief was being voiced over the comparatively speedy settlement in Wales, although it was not achieved without some hitches. The Liberal will contest Bangor, Caernarvon and Brecon and Radnor, on all of which the SDP had set their sights, but in return the SDP will fight Anglesey, which is regarded as a prime target, and Pembroke, held by Mr Nicholas Edwards, Secretary of State for Wales.

Mr Thomas Ellis, Social Democrat MP for Wrexham, who led the SDP team, said: "Concessions have been made on both sides to get the best possible balance of candidates."

Overseas selling prices
Australia 28s 2d; Bahrain 20s 0d; Belgium 28s 2d; Brazil 28s 2d; Canada 28s 2d; Denmark 28s 2d; France 28s 2d; Germany 28s 2d; Greece 28s 2d; Hong Kong 28s 2d; India 28s 2d; Ireland 28s 2d; Italy 28s 2d; Japan 28s 2d; Korea 28s 2d; Luxembourg 28s 2d; Malaysia 28s 2d; Mexico 28s 2d; Netherlands 28s 2d; New Zealand 28s 2d; Norway 28s 2d; Oman 28s 2d; Pakistan 28s 2d; Portugal 28s 2d; Saudi Arabia 28s 2d; Singapore 28s 2d; South Africa 28s 2d; Spain 28s 2d; Sweden 28s 2d; Switzerland 28s 2d; Taiwan 28s 2d; Thailand 28s 2d; Turkey 28s 2d; U.A.E. 28s 2d; U.S.A. 28s 2d; U.K. 28s 2d; Yugoslavia 28s 2d.

Frigate ordered: Nott defends carriers sale

DEFENCE

An order had been placed today with Yarrow Shipbuilders for the eighth Broadside class frigate at a total estimated cost of £120m, Mr John Nott, Secretary of State for Defence, announced during question time.

He explained that Britain could not afford to deploy the air defence and anti-submarine escorts that would be necessary to protect carriers. It is better (he said) that we keep two in service rather than spend the money on the frigate.

Mr Nott explained that including the new frigate order, he would have placed orders for warships with British Shipbuilders in the current financial year to a total value including their weapons, of £450m.

Asked for a statement on the role of carriers in the fleet, Mr Nott said: The primary role of the carriers is to provide a mobile anti-submarine operations in the Eastern Atlantic. In the next few years we intend to make particular use of our carriers in deployment outside the NATO area.

Mr Michael Brotherton (Leith, C): In the light of that reply, would he agree that the carriers would be able to make a significant contribution to the fleet's bearing in mind the role played by HMS Invincible in the Autumn exercise by NATO, to dispose of Invincible now would be a serious blow to the national interest. (Some Conservative cheers)

Mr Nott: To bring him up-to-date, our discussions with the Australians have envisaged a hand-over of Invincible towards the end of 1983 when Illustrious will be operational. We also intend to run on Hermes until Ark Royal joins the fleet in 1985.

We expect a decision by the Australians by the end of the month. If they prefer a later date in 1985 when Ark Royal is in service, we will naturally consider the matter. I would like to debate the role of the carrier, but it is more than we would expect in answer to a question.

Mr Patrick Duffy (Sheffield, Attlee, Lab): Given the critical shortage in Scotland of anti-submarine escorts, operations on the surface as well as below and in the air, is he satisfied with the present complement of carriers of no more than three and perhaps only two?

Mr Nott: The carriers make heavy demands. We said in the Defence White Paper of June that we envisaged two carriers being in service. If we had to retain a third carrier, she would go into reserve.

It is better to try to obtain £175m, which is what would go into the naval programme if we

sold Invincible to the Australians, rather than have a carrier in reserve. Carriers make heavy demands on supporting and anti-submarine and anti-defence escorts.

We want to cover as wide an area as possible in the East Atlantic with frigates that can use Stingray.

Mr Winston Churchill (Stratford, C): The original conception of the Invincible class of anti-submarine warfare was that there would be three and that two would be on station at any given time and one in the dockyard.

If he goes ahead with his proposal to sell Invincible to the Royal Australian Navy, this will effectively halve the number of these valuable anti-submarine warfare vessels on station at any given time. Many MPs are strongly opposed to his proposed action.

Mr Nott: No, I cannot confirm that I envisaged three carriers being in service. In the White Paper it was clearly stated that there would be two in service. It is a question of how we can best dispose of our naval resources in the Eastern Atlantic.

The United States has an enormous Navy - ours would be the third most powerful in the world - and we cannot afford to deploy the air defence and anti-submarine escorts that would be necessary to protect the carriers. It is better that we keep two in service rather than three and spend the rest of the money on the frigate force.

Mr Barry Miller (Bromsgrove and Redditch, C): How is this country to sustain its NATO role in the Eastern Atlantic in anti-submarine operations? Would he take an early opportunity, outside this House if necessary, to explain his concept of anti-submarine warfare and how we are to meet our responsibilities in the light of the planned disposal of Invincible and the number of the frigate fleet of the hunter-killer submarine?

Mr Nott said he was placing today an order with the Yarrow shipyard for the eighth Broadside class frigate at a total estimated cost of about £120m. This will enable us (he said) to take advantage of the reduced price offered by the shipyard at the end of this month - (Laughter) - which will secure a saving, with the seventh frigate we ordered the other day and this one, of about £5m.

Chemicals from behind closed Russian doors

It was time for MPs to concentrate on the threat from Soviet chemical weapons instead of criticising Britain's American allies, Mr John Nott, Secretary of State for Defence, said. Pressed by the Opposition on deployment of chemical weapons, he said there was no proposal to deploy them on British soil.

We have taken the lead (he said) in trying to get a ban on the manufacture of chemical weapons but the Soviet Union, because it has a massive lead in these weapons, deployed forward

in Europe, and has 60,000 troops trained to use them while NATO possesses none, refuses to agree to verification measures for a ban.

He was answering Mr Desailly Davies, an Opposition spokesman on defence (Llanelli, Lab) who had accused him of prevaricating on chemical weapons.

Mr Davies had said: We all know there is a Russian stockpile and there is going to be an American stockpile, and I hope for negotiations to reduce them. Will he make clear that the Government has no intention to manufacture chemical weapons or to allow them to be located on British soil whether they are British or American?

Mr Michael McNair-Watson (Newbury, C): Has any European member of NATO yet asked for chemical weapons to be stationed in their country?

Mr Nott: There is no proposal at present to deploy the new American binary weapon forward in Europe and the Americans have agreed to consult their European allies before any such forward deployment arises.

Mr Frank Haynes (Ashfield, Lab) asked if the stationing of chemical weapons in Europe was discussed at the last meeting of NATO defence ministers.

Mr Nott: No. Mr Haynes: Many people do not believe Mr Nott's statements on chemical weapons. When will he come clean and let the people know what is going on behind closed doors?

Mr Nott: Russia has 60,000 troops trained in and specially designated to fight in chemical warfare. The training is carried out in live chemical grounds and we know there are fatal casualties among the soldiers involved in these exercises.

Russia holds over 300,000 tons of chemical weapons and much of this is deployed forward into Europe. The training is carried out in live chemical grounds and we know there are fatal casualties among the soldiers involved in these exercises.

Cost advantage in purchase of Trident

Trident will cost less than any other major defence capability of this country in capital terms, but far less in running terms, Mr John Nott, Secretary of State for Defence, said during questions in the Commons.

Mr Robert Brown (Newcastle-upon-Tyne, West, Lab) a former junior defence minister, said that purchase of the Trident programme must mean the sacrifice of the surface fleet and the closure of shipyards like Swan Hunter on Tyneside.

Mr Nott: The Trident programme has hardly cost us anything up to now. The peak expenditure, if we decide to go for Trident 5, on Trident will be in the late 1980s, when the Tornado programme will have been over.

Trident will be costing us less than any other major defence capability of this country in capital terms and far less in running terms. We are spending £2,000m on Tornados in the next



Churchill: Sale opposed

few years. He has the relative scale and cost of Trident entirely out of gear.

Mr Nott explained that the Government had not yet reached its final decision on the UK Trident programme so he was not in a position to make a statement.

He told Mr John Silkin, chief Opposition spokesman on defence and disarmament, that there would continue to be a real increase in defence expenditure on conventional forces. That was not the policy of the Opposition.

Mr Timothy Renton (Mid Sussex, C): If the Government decides to go for the advanced D5 version of Trident, what trade offers might be offered by the United States to offset the increased costs?

Is he personally convinced that, if we go for the D5 we will still be able to maintain our conventional forces at the necessary levels?

Mr Nott: We will be able to maintain these forces. We are in the process of coming to a decision between C4 and D5 and that requires discussions with the United States. I cannot comment on the first part of his question.

Mr John Silkin, chief Opposition spokesman on defence and disarmament: As the whole of the Government's nuclear policy is destroying our conventional capability, how can he continue to enlarge the Trident programme?

Mr Nott: When we came to office we were told that the Government's nuclear policy was destroying our conventional capability, how can he continue to enlarge the Trident programme?

Mr Richard Douglas (Dunfermline, Lab): What are the overriding strategic requirements for taking a decision on Trident now?

Mr Nott: Eight successive governments of all political parties have believed in the need for a strategic independent deterrent. There is nothing new about deciding to modernize that deterrent. The previous Labour Government decided to modernize the deterrent secretly; we are doing so openly.

Tory measures to improve air defences

Although the number of aircraft available for the defence of the United Kingdom was greater than in 1975 and they had an enhanced capability there was still a shortage of fighter pilots,



Duffy: Critical shortage

Mr John Nott, Secretary of State for Defence, said.

Mr Peter Hardy (Rother Valley, Lab): There is discrepancy and hides the fact that many of these aircraft are extremely old. It disregards the fact that for much of the life of the present Government, operational flying hours of pilots in the relevant RAF squadrons have been greatly reduced.

How does that equate with the position we heard so much of Conservative MPs before 1979?

Mr Nott: It takes a good number of years to improve any defence capability. Since we have been in Government we have proceeded with the Nimrod early warning programme, agreed to run on the two Buccaneer squadrons into the 1990s, we are bringing forward the Tornado defence version which will only be a few months behind schedule, and the VC10 tanker force will multiply our air capability to a large extent. We have agreed to arm 72 of the Hawks. We are redeploying Bloodhounds.

Mr Alan Beith (Berwick-upon-Tweed, C): Did he not refer to a window of vulnerability over the next five years? Is that what the price of the Trident programme is?

Mr Nott: I referred to a window of vulnerability in general terms. I was referring to the total capability of NATO as against the capability of the Warsaw Pact forces in all areas will continue to increase vis-a-vis that of NATO in the next few years. That is the window of vulnerability.

Mr Anthony Buck (Colchester, C): What we have done about pay and conditions has stopped there being an outflow of trained pilots.

Mr Nott: When we came to power we were about 200 fighter pilots short. We are still short of fighter pilots. It takes two years and a half to recruit and train a fighter pilot.

Mr Nott: Eight successive governments of all political parties have believed in the need for a strategic independent deterrent. There is nothing new about deciding to modernize that deterrent. The previous Labour Government decided to modernize the deterrent secretly; we are doing so openly.

Foot demands help for jobless

UNEMPLOYMENT

Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition (Ebbw Vale, Lab), referring to today's published figures of unemployment, asked the Prime Minister at question time: can we have any assurance that the coming Budget will not, like all the previous Budgets under her administration, cut drastically to the unemployment total and that in that Budget she will take steps to restore the benefits to the unemployed who have had their benefits cut under her Government? (Labour cheers)

Mrs Thatcher: Tax reductions by definition usually go to those who pay more. (Labour protests). If people do not pay very much tax they cannot get much back on tax reductions, but I would point out that the top 40 per cent of incomes start at about £7,500 a year and that would not be thought of as rich under his definition.

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is largely accounted for by the increased unemployment. Mr Jack Straw (Blackburn, Lab): The Treasury is refusing to give information on the total cost of tax cuts. Budget C-24foot? ... on that tax on the rich has gone down and the tax on everyone else has gone up?

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Would she comment on the £500,000 reduction in the public budget on Merseyside and consider the possibility of reinstating that money to put 1,000 extra policemen on the beat? Parents have a greater responsibility in dealing with their own children.

Mrs Thatcher: We do not believe there should be any reduction in the amount spent on these difficult days, on the number of police or on the provision of equipment. We should be strenuously against any reduction in the numbers or in expenditure on these matters. We understand that the community police is having a beneficial effect in Liverpool. It is hoped it will strengthen relations between the police and the community.

The Government, she said, was concerned about events at the school.

It is (she went on) a relatively new school with a good teacher-pupil ratio. Parents and all citizens have a duty to teach the principles of law and order and see it is upheld. In some of these areas some of the children suffer from what are called "accidental injuries"; sometimes children are abandoned.

This occurs in such areas as the streets and the social service and voluntary agencies to everything they can to diminish it.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Scottish Office. The Bill, second reading. Lords (2.30): Debates on rural matters, problems of the Scottish Highlands, and on A320 Airbus.

Maintaining decent English

The Speaker (Mr George Thomas), warning of the danger of unparliamentary language, called for an effort to maintain decent English in debates.

Mr Frank Haynes (Ashfield, Lab), on a point of order, said he wanted if there was a list of words which should not be used in the Commons because they were considered unparliamentary.

Mr Nott: Many days ago (he said) you pulled me up at question time for using the word "hell". This afternoon the word "devil" was used.

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MPs seek more time for minority rights in Canada

CANADA BILL

When the committee stage began, Mr Enoch Powell (South Down, Off UU) moved the first of a series of amendments to the schedule of the Bill, which sets out the new Canadian Constitution Act, and in particular to the fundamental freedoms set out therein.

Among other amendments being considered was one to insert in the new constitution provisions for an Aboriginal Rights Commission.

He said the natural meanings of what the Commons might be thought to be doing was giving to judges of a court the ultimate political decisions as to what was a free society, what was a democratic society and what was justifiable in such a society.

His conclusion was that Canada had no intention and no notion that it intended to be a country where political decisions were taken on the judicial bench.

Sir Bernard Braine (South-East Essex, C) said that there were constructive amendments. Their inclusion, would provide a much better constitution, able to reflect with honour the unique relationship between the native peoples, who rightly called themselves the first nations of Canada, and the Europeans, who settled there from the seventeenth century onwards. This relationship of distinct peoples, the cornerstone upon which modern Canada was built.

The native peoples wanted a form of self-government within the sovereignty of Canada and they had a right to it. A greater degree of self-government would secure for them the continuation in future generations of their distinct identity.

They cried out to MPs to help protect them from assimilation with the majority of people from European origin. Their right to

Patients to be told their rights

MOVING THE AMENDMENT

A Government which would give mental patients transferred from prison to hospital mental nursing home the right to a hearing before the Mental Health Review Tribunal within six months of their transfer was agreed to.

Moving the amendment, Lord Belstead, Under Secretary of State, Home Office, said that at present the law left a gap in which a category of patient, unlike those subject to hospital orders, would not have had his or her case looked at given by a court, and the Government accepted that such patients should have immediate right to a tribunal hearing. This would no longer be a way to meet concerns expressed by Opposition MPs.

Lord Avebury (L) welcomed the change, although, he said, it was not as good as his amendment at committee stage - that patients should have right to a tribunal hearing before transfer.

A Government amendment to the Mental Health (Amendment) Bill would ensure that all patients detained in mental hospitals are informed of their rights both orally and in writing, Lord Emswiler, Secretary of State for Health and Social Security, said in the House of Lords when the report stage began.

He said the amendment, which would ensure that all patients steps should be taken to ensure, as far as was practicable, that the patient understood his rights and that this was done as soon as possible after admission.

There was also a requirement that the person most closely concerned with the patient should be informed of those rights. This might not necessarily be the closest relative whom it might not always be possible to contact. It would be left to the discretion of the hospital managers who would know the patient and his situation.

He emphasized the importance of information was given in a form appropriate to the individual to ensure it could be understood and passed on to anyone else thought appropriate.

Lord Winstanley (L) who had proposed an amendment along similar lines said he would withdraw it after hearing the Government proposal. He welcomed the move because, he said, a patient detained in a mental hospital was often defenceless and vulnerable.

It was right that the hospital managers should be given further responsibility towards patients as they had the ultimate responsibility for their detention.



Brain: Too little time for reflection

Bills being taken in committee on the floor of the House in a week after second reading.

When the Bill was published two months ago the main arguments were already well known.

He had no idea about the future progress and timing of the Bill. There was a desire in Canada for progress but when the measure would leave the Commons and receive Royal Assent he had no idea.

Lloyd's Bill

The Lloyd's Bill, which is designed to improve the self-regulatory mechanisms of the insurance market, completed its report stage early today. The immunity clause went through unaltered after an attempt to amend it was defeated by 71 votes to 18.

Price controls wanted

For three years there had been no minister responsible for price regulation or monitoring. The consumer had been treated like a captive slave having to do the paying while the state industries were being made the scapegoat for inflation.

What was needed was a Bill which would give a single minister responsible to the House and through it to the people for these never-ending increases. He should have powers to refer to an independent body outside the House to see that justice was done.

Asking this Government to safeguard the interests of millions of families was like putting the trust robbers in charge of the silver vaults. She wanted to see those people who had to do the paying receive justice and fairness.

BACKBENCH BILL

Miss Betty Boothroyd (West Bromwich, West Lab) was given leave under the 10-minute rule to bring in a Bill to give the Secretary of State for Trade powers to control the prices of essential goods and services. The Essential Goods and Services (Price Control) Bill was read a first time.

She said there was major public concern, at the increasing costs of goods and services which were an essential ingredient to every citizen's life.

As well as sizes of the family budget, such as the cost of a home, the increasing cost of heating that home, and the charges imposed for health services.

ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY

APRIL 6.
KEEP THE NEW N.I.
CONTRIBUTIONS
IN MIND.

NEW NATIONAL INSURANCE CONTRIBUTIONS

National Insurance contributions rates and limits will change from April 6, 1982.

The main changes are shown here, but full details are given in leaflet NI208/April 82 available from post offices or social security offices.

EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES

The lower earnings limit below which no Class 1 contributions are payable, by employer or employee, is being raised to £29.50 a week.

The upper earnings limit to which Class 1 contributions are payable will be raised to £220 a week.

The percentage rates of contribution for employees will also be increased. Those who are not contracted out will pay 8.75% on earnings up to £220. Those who are contracted out will pay 8.75% on earnings up to £29.50 and 6.25% between £29.50 and £220. The reduced-rate contribution payable by some married women and widows will go up to 3.2%. There will be no change in the percentage rates of contri-

bution paid by employers.

New contribution tables are being issued direct to employers. But if copies are not received by March 20, apply as follows:

□ Not-contracted-out tables (CF391) - local social security office.

□ Contracted-out tables (CF392) - Contracted-out Employments Group, DHSS, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE98 1YX.

□ NI Surcharge-exempt tables (CF398) - Collector of Taxes to whom end-of-year tax returns are made.

Existing tables will be invalid after April 5 and should not be used for payments of earnings after that date.

SELF-EMPLOYED

Class 2 flat-rate contributions are being raised to £3.75 per week. The first contribution at this rate is due on April 11.

If you expect to earn less than £1600 from self employment in the 1982/83 tax year,

you can apply for exception from liability to pay Class 2 contributions.

Class 4 contribution rate will be increased to 6%, and the lower and upper limits of profits or gains on which contributions are payable will be raised to £3,450 and £11,000 respectively.

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

Class 3 flat-rate contributions will be raised to £3.65 a week.

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR PEOPLE PAYING CLASS 2 OR 3 CONTRIBUTIONS BY DIRECT DEBIT

The Department is not required by the direct debiting scheme to send to direct debit contributors individual notice of changes in the rate of contributions as the amounts payable are statutory. This advertisement gives formal notice of the new rate you should pay from April 6, 1982. The first contribution at this rate is due on April 11. Contribution rate changes in other years will also be notified by national publicity in the press.

ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Stewart Tendler reveals how a cool con-man made a little money go a long way



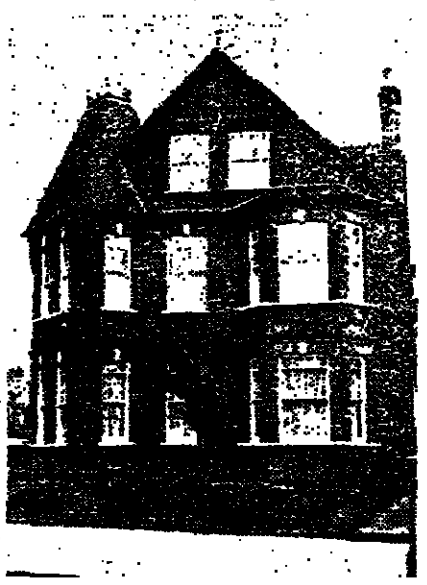
The "cross-fire" cheque artist: Siegmund Sperber — charm, skill and panache, and the alias Georg Pratten.



His country house: Little Stream, Virginia Water — antiques, 102 expensive suits, a Mercedes, a Rolls-Royce and a Jaguar, and gold and silver.



The Waldorf: Sperber did his deals here, but the police waited in vain.



The convent: Used, unknown to the nuns, as a "dead letter" drop.



The sleuth: Det Sgt John Mullally, whose doggedness matches Sperber's cunning.

How Siegmund Sperber lived high off the banks

At Interpol in Paris the last trace of Siegmund Sperber was in Switzerland 10 years ago; the file says "identity uncertain". On the Antwerp diamond bourse, dealers thought he was dead, killed in a mysterious car crash in 1974. The police in Rome wanted to talk to him about a billion lira fraud in 1976.

Yesterday at the Central Criminal Court, Sperber, known in Britain as Georg Pratten, was sent to prison for five years for his part in what was, by his standards, a minor piece of chicanery. For Mr Sperber is a monarch of international frauds, king of a system of financial musical chairs which has milked banks across Europe of nearly £3m in the past few years.

He has not been tried for these offences. When on case was brought before the courts last autumn, his complex police investigations it was thrown out on a technicality.

Siegmund Sperber is the sort of man bank managers seem to take to immediately. He arrives driving an expensive car. Well dressed, he travels as a middle-aged international businessman, usually in diamonds, who exudes a Mittel European charm (which at the age of 64 still wins him more than his fair share of women).

The confident patter is underlined by a gesture of the hands, a sweep of the arms. He explains that he is no babe in the world of finance but he needs a little help, not being too well acquainted with the procedures of his victim's country. He wants to open an account and he needs a little understanding, like credit facilities and transfer arrangements. Sir, he tells the manager, my business depends on flexibility.

Indeed it does. Mr Sperber's speciality is a fraud technically known as cheque "cross-firing". Since the advent of computers it has rarely been seen; most banks assume they are no longer at risk. Mr Sperber has personally disabused several leading European banks of that belief.

The scheme is complex, involving considerable juggling and timing of the international banking system. Put at its simplest it involves a victim bank in one country and accounts at other banks in second countries.

The first move is to open current and deposit accounts with the intended victim. The second stage is to build up a credit rating and demonstrate respectability. So far Mr Sperber is a normal customer. What the victim does not know is that Mr Sperber is also opening up a network of accounts under other names, or using associates abroad. At the centre of the network is a clearing bank.

Over weeks or months Mr Sperber begins to circulate money from the victim bank through the other accounts and then back to the original current account. Sometimes he is in the black, sometimes in the red. The bank does not worry. He seems a very active customer with business relations with many people and other banks, and he is paying interest on the current account overdraft.

£50,000 on deposit and is still paying interest on his overdraft. As the amount of money circulating rises Mr Sperber siphons some off and then starts the last stage. He takes money out of the network banks. When the victim bank presents its cheques there is no money to meet them. The cheques are returned, and only then does the bank know how much it has lost.

From whom Sperber learns his skill is unknown but he brought to cross-firing a mind capable of keeping abreast of complicated detail and considerable panache — one victim agreed to hold parcels of diamonds as collateral without ever checking the parcels.

In one fraud 33 different bank accounts were used. But over the years Sperber has been both bold and unlucky. He has been to prison only twice.

He was born in Vienna in 1918 but spent his youth in Cracow, Poland. Before the start of the last war he moved west to Belgium where, although Jewish, he survived the Nazis with the help, it is said, of a Belgian order of nuns. Thirty years later the nuns were still unwittingly protecting him in London.

In 1946 Sperber set up as a diamond dealer, living in Antwerp. Married in 1948, he was no longer resident in Belgium in the early 1950s and in 1954 his company went bankrupt. Nonetheless he appears to have continued as a dealer until 1956, when he is alleged to have defrauded a number of his colleagues by disappearing with diamonds on credit.

Two years later he was sentenced to two months imprisonment and the next year sentences of two and five years were passed on him in Antwerp. In the meantime Sperber had jumped bail.

He emerged again in 1964 in Italy where he was tried and acquitted for fraud, but he was extradited to Belgium to serve his sentences. In his defence yesterday it was said that the sentence in Belgium was reduced to three years and that he had been tried and cleared in Austria.

In 1969 he was sentenced to three years imprisonment in France but the sentence was passed in absentia. Sperber had disappeared again.

He was now to be found part of the time in Switzerland, where Swiss authorities believe he extracted £500,000 from branch of the Banco di Bilbao. In 1971 the West Germans extradited him to Switzerland and early in 1972 he stood trial there. The Swiss are circumspect about what happened next but it appears Sperber walked out of court during an adjournment.

In 1974 a rumour spread round the Antwerp diamond dealers that Sperber had died in a car accident. His former wife, whom he had divorced in 1969, was among those who thought he was dead.

When a customer bought perfume, on credit, NUB through its subsidiary paid Charles Scott (Parfums), the manufacturer, 80 per cent of the bill, minus service and interest charges. Charles Scott (Parfums) would receive the remainder 20 per cent when the customer paid the bill.

In the summer of 1977 NUB was taken over and it was announced that the discounting business would end in the spring of 1978. The value of goods discounted for Charles Scott (Parfums) began to rise, mainly because of a new account with firms called Agrostis Import/Export Ltd and Texmay Finance Ltd. At first payments were made within the 90-day period for credit, but then the payments dried up.

Proceedings were taken against Agrostis and Texmay, who said they had never received the perfume. Police investigations concluded that no perfume had ever been destined for them. Arrests were made, and yesterday Maurice Thomas Wood, an accountant and director of Agrostis, was jailed for a year for his part in the £271,000 fraud.

But another man remained elusive. The guiding light behind Agrostis and Texmay was a Mr Georg Pratten, who was thought to live much of the time abroad. Detective Sergeant John Mullally, a member of the fraud squad, set out to find him. Mr Mullally, a determined Ulsterman, began what was to prove a long game of hide and seek through the winter of 1979 into the spring and summer of 1980. Pratten, via his lawyers, offered to meet the policeman abroad and promised to keep appointments, but never appeared.

Pratten was known to favour the Waldorf Hotel in the Aldwych for business meals and meetings. Suspecting he might be on his way there, Mr Mullally called in undercover detectives from the Yard's criminal intelligence branch. Disguised as doormen, road sweepers, passing pedestrians and hotel visitors, they waited in vain. Pratten's second sense saved him and he did not appear.

Mr Mullally dogged the heels of a girlfriend of Pratten's and night after night over two months, trailing her buses homeward without sign of Pratten. The policeman discovered her while investigating the firm where Mr Wood worked. She was on the switchboard.

In June 1980, he was watching a flat used by her in north London when a green Mercedes Benz turned into the street.

As Pratten pulled up, the policeman ran down from his vantage point on a six-storey block of flats, jumped garden fences and sprinted into the road. Pratten, planning a lunch with the girl, was unlocking the boot of his car to take out a bottle of wine and some food. He found under arrest.

In his briefcase the policeman found signed blank cheques drawn on accounts under different names in London. The cheques were part of the fraud on the ABM bank amounting to almost £400,000. At the same time the bank was being used in complex credit deals with a London jewellers, A. Byworth and Co. Jewellery was given to Pratten on approval for 30 days against post-dated cheques on London accounts.

When the moment came to honour the cheques others drawn on the Dutch bank would be substituted. Those would take time to clear and so extend the period of credit. The firm eventually lost £250,000, although Pratten later argued in court that the cheques would have been met. Mr Mullally discovered one reason why he had had difficulties tracking Pratten down. He was comfortably ensconced in a large house with an acre of grounds in Virginia Water, Surrey, deep in the stockbroker belt. The house had been bought for £54,000 cash in another name in 1978.

The garden had been landscaped, garages added and the interior stripped. Antiques filled the lower floor and upstairs in Pratten's room 102 suits were neatly arranged in the wardrobe, graded from light to dark shades in each colour. Many of them came from an expensive tailor in Milan.

By the garage, Pratten's cars were lined up. The green Mercedes, a grey Rolls-Royce, a mauve Jaguar and an Alfa Romeo which the Italian chauffeur said was his. Neighbours were told the cars were the fruits of repossession orders against Pratten's debtors. At the time of his arrest Pratten announced he was going abroad for a month or so.

The police discovered that to cover his tracks Pratten had registered the cars at the London convent of the Missionary Sisters, in Hampstead, the Belgian order said to have protected him during the last war. The convent was also used as a poste restante, an address for accounts.

A senior member of the staff told The Times that

letters had been sent to the convent, which it had returned to the Post Office; others had been picked up by visitors. The sister in charge of the convent at the time had since returned to Belgium and the current staff knew nothing.

The police discovered that Pratten's Belgian girlfriend owned a flat worth £30,000 in north London. There was also a bolt hole for Pratten in Milan. Throughout the time Mr Mullally was searching for Pratten he had no idea of his real identity. When he was arrested the police had nothing more than a man with a West German identity card aged 52 and born in Munich. The criminal records office at Scotland Yard does not keep records for individuals beyond a certain age on the basis that they become too old for crime. Besides, he had never been convicted in Britain.

The West German computer at Weisbaden knew differently. Late at night an excited German voice told Mr Mullally: "You have an international delinquent." The "Pratten" identity card was one which had been stolen.

But Sperber's luck was not totally exhausted. Last autumn he and two accomplices came before the Central Criminal Court charged with fraud against the second Dutch bank and the British jewellery firm. After listening to legal argument Judge Buzzard ruled that the Dutch case was outside British jurisdiction although counsel for one of the defendants conceded that fraud had taken place.

The jewelry charge was also dropped because it was argued that the loss would have been accounted for had the police not stepped in and made their arrests, thus preventing international cheques from being met.

The judge's decision caused anger and frustration among the prosecutors. It has raised doubts about the

feasibility of prosecuting international frauds in this country. But Sperber was not free. He remained in the maximum security wing of Wormwood Scrubs, supplied with meals brought from his Surrey home, and began trial before Christmas on the perfume fraud. Mr Mullally, who suffered a heart attack during the complex investigations, gave evidence for 14 days.

Sperber chose to make a statement from the dock. For three days he brought to play yet again his considerable charm. A slightly rumpled figure with a mane of white hair, he was the image of the benign Dutch uncle. At the end of one afternoon in the 13 week trial he looked up at the judge and in the manner of a barrister suggested that "perhaps this would be a good point to adjourn for the day my lord". The judge agreed.

Today, at the end of a trial costing more than £250,000, Pratten knows as he begins his sentence that he may need that blend of presence and impertinence again. The Italian authorities are planning extradition proceedings and the Dutch are also considering action.

Sperber is believed to own properties in France and elsewhere. The police also suspect there may be anonymous bank accounts in Switzerland. There is an arrest warrant out in Antwerp for his Belgian girlfriend.

The future of Little Stream, now worth £160,000, has not been settled. A few days after Pratten's arrest notice was given that it had been bought on a loan from West Germany.

In Sperber's room resting on the leather-bound blotting pad given by Rolls-Royce to its customers is an antique American hunting knife used by prospectors in California. On the blade is inscribed: "dig gold out of quartz". Sperber's motto, perhaps?

Premium Bonds

£8 MILLION TO BE WON-EVERY MONTH

There's no more exciting way of saving. Every month Premium Bonds pay out over 100,000 prizes, including a top prize of £250,000. On top of that there are weekly prizes of £25,000, £50,000, and £100,000. All prizes are tax free. Even if you don't win you can't lose. Because your numbers go back into the draw month after month. And you can always get your money back. Premium Bonds are sold in £1 units, and the minimum purchase is five. But you can buy up to £10,000 worth, and the more you hold the better your chances of winning. You get them at banks and post offices, where you'll also find a leaflet if you want more detailed information.

National Savings

...now admits that his "push game at a stroke. That's where we as centre half and the game has pressing and an elegant certainty about it matched later RESULTS: ...

Russians invite Chinese to border talks

Moscow, Feb 23. — The Soviet Government has proposed a resumption of talks with China on the two countries long-standing border dispute, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said today.

The spokesman said the Soviet Union had approached the Chinese Government with a proposal to discuss the border issue, but he emphasized that Moscow did not intend to discuss what he described as "territorial questions".

The two countries last met in 1978 in Peking to discuss the dispute, which led to bloody border clashes 13 years ago and has provoked deep bitterness in both Peking and Moscow.

China claims 600,000 square miles of Soviet territory, but Moscow rejects the claim and publicly insists that talks should deal only with border protocol.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman did not say how or when the latest approach was made, but Soviet sources in Peking said today that the Kremlin informed the Chinese Government of its readiness for talks on February 1.

Western diplomats in Moscow said the Soviet move seemed timed to coincide with strains between Peking and Washington over the United States' recent sale of advanced fighter aircraft to Taiwan.

The Soviet Government is deeply concerned by the increase in Sino-American

economic, political and military cooperation and is eager to settle its differences with China, the diplomats said.

Mr Nikolai Tikhonov, the Soviet Prime Minister, hinted at a softening of Moscow's attitude last week when he said that the Kremlin "would not be kept from taking concrete steps" towards improving Sino-Soviet relations. However, the process of improvement, he told a group of Japanese journalists, must not be one-sided.

Marshal Dmitry Ustinov, the Defence Minister, echoed Mr Tikhonov's line in an article published in *Pravda* today.

Marshal Ustinov refrained from making any of the customary Soviet charges of aggression against China and limited himself to warning Peking that its policies could only help Washington's aggressive preparations.

Peking and Moscow have held 15 rounds of border talks since the 1960s when the two Governments, formerly close allies, became involved in a fierce ideological dispute.

Moscow's last formal proposal to resume the talks, made six months ago, was rejected by the Peking leadership.

China has cited the Soviet military presence in Afghanistan, besides other international ideological issues as hindrances toward the reestablishment of normal relations. — Reuters.



Poland: Sanctions; Jaruzelski visit

EEC to curb Soviet imports

By Our Foreign Staff

EEC foreign ministers meeting in Brussels yesterday agreed to send to the Soviet Union "a clear political signal" of displeasure about events in Poland.

It will comprise a curb on what has been calculated as about 2 per cent of total Soviet imports into the Community.

It can only be sent subject to reservations by Greece and Denmark. Greece has already made it clear that it will not be associated with sanctions against the Soviet Union and Denmark has said it finds it legally hard to accept that Greece should be exempted from any supposedly joint EEC measures.

It has therefore been left to the European Commission to find a compromise, one idea for which is that restrictions should be imposed only on goods not bought by Greece.

The Commission proposals are expected to be ready in the next few days. Yesterday's meeting approved the restrictions in principle.

A ban will be limited to manufactured products and luxury goods. According to Italian figures these total about £30m a year. A French proposal that the ban should amount to half this figure would mean cutting Soviet imports by roughly 2 per cent.

There was no discussion in the Council about latest developments in Poland, the aim being merely to agree on a signal which would, in the words of Lord Carrington, the British Foreign Secretary, show that "this is what happens if you do this sort of thing and if you do it again it will be worse".

The Council also agreed to send humanitarian aid worth £4.5m to Poland for distribution through charitable organisations.

Part of the session was given over to a discussion on progress towards what would

amount to a new charter of European unity. Known so far as the European Act, it was originally suggested jointly by West Germany and Italy and has been discussed by a small group of Community diplomats over the past few weeks. They are now to report again on the idea by May 24.

□ Tokyo: The Japanese Government yesterday announced that it will take steps to impose sanctions against the Soviet Union and Poland.

Mr Kiichi Miyazawa, the chief Cabinet Secretary, said the Government would refuse to reschedule Polish debts or lend more money "for the time being because... the Government recognises that the unity and cooperation of the Western nations are of utmost importance in coping with the Polish question".

Mr Miyazawa said the sanctions would not be applied to any economic assistance already committed to Poland.

In terms of the measures, which were described as half-hearted by Western diplomats, Japan will also, among other things, suspend trade consultations with the Soviet Union and shelve Moscow's request for the enlargement of its trade office in Tokyo.

□ Madrid: Poland countered criticism at the European security review conference yesterday with charges that Britain used torture in Northern Ireland, diplomatic sources said.

The Sub-Director of Foreign Affairs, Mr Włodzisław Konarski, asked how Britain would react if other countries insisted on dialogue between authorities in Ulster and representatives of the Roman Catholic Church, Protestant leaders and the IRA.

□ Paris: Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, said in an inter-

view with *Le Monde* newspaper yesterday that the world economic crisis constituted a danger at least as great as tension between the super powers and the "Polish tragedy".

"Unemployment in the northern hemisphere and famine in the southern one lead to a social and political destabilisation which enhances communist influence and other destabilising factors."

□ Geneva: Calling for a world religious summit for peace, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, yesterday described events in Iran and Poland as "eruptions of a religious power which can never be suppressed no matter how much it is denied, but which needs to be channelled and informed by the exercise of reason".

□ Brussels: Belgium has announced sanctions against Poland and the Soviet Union, in line with the undertakings it gave with other Nato and EEC countries.

They include a suspension of exchange visits between ministers and senior officials and restrictions on visas for Soviet diplomats.

Talks on re-scheduling Polish debts are to be suspended, a Belgian-Polish commission is being set up to investigate the killing and destruction there.

The government report — issued after accusations that the Western press, including *The Times*, had fabricated and exaggerated the extent of the Hama massacre — spoke of "firing mosques and streets... the liquidation of whole families".

The account was contained in a telegram of support to President Assad of Syria by the Baath Party branch in Hama, which blamed the extremist Muslim Brotherhood for the fighting.

It said that "the black wrath against the people began with firing from mosques and streets on the houses of residents, killing randomly anyone walking in the streets and liquidating whole families, including men, women and children and killing brutally all those who did not open their doors to become objects of treason".

According to the account, Baath Party members were shot while they were asleep in bed. When the party's "security apparatus" attempted to bring violence under control, the Brotherhood retaliated by "pillaging stores and murdering doctors and lawyers and religious men. For this our comrades struck with the power of justice and the criminal tide was stopped at the early stage of the plot".

Hardliner like Mr Stefan Olezowski, having sanctioned the state of affairs in Poland, must not see it through. General Jaruzelski who is also Prime Minister, head of the military council and Minister of Defence will only cede his leadership of the party when international law ends.

These judgments are drawn largely from party sources who are inclined towards the liberal reformist wing and therefore may contain a certain amount of wishful thinking. But the verdict seems to be correct: the hardliners are making more noise than they have genuine influence, at least within the Central Committee.

□ Mr Lech Walesa, the interned leader of Solidarity, today quashed speculation that the baptism of his baby daughter would be turned into some form of public spectacle. (Reuters reports).

Reports published in the West have suggested that he might be set free for the baptism and that the Polish prime minister, Archbishop Józef Glemp would officiate, thus turning the ceremony into what would amount to a political event.

Today, Father Henryk Jankowski, Mr Walesa's parish priest, said the Walesas wanted the baptism to be a private family affair.

Leading article, page 11

Sinai withdrawal

Egyptian sea cannon show who rules the waves

From Christopher Walker, Sharm el Sheikh

In addition to two air bases, the airfield used to launch the Entebbe raid, hundreds of miles of new roads, modern hotels, diving schools, restaurants and air-conditioned flats, the Egyptians will be receiving two of their own pre-Second World War guns when they regain the remaining one third of occupied Sinai on April 26.

The British-made sea cannon, over 20 ft long and with barrels clearly engraved with the insignia of George V, still sit symbolically, if impotently, astride the concrete emplacements which command the narrow Strait of Tiran, 400 yards of the Red Sea which are vital to the security of Israeli shipping to and from Asia and East Africa.

Now useful only as a museum piece, the guns have been deliberately left where they were abandoned by the Egyptians in 1967 as a reminder to any visitor of the importance of the area for Israel. A metal sign explains that attempted Egyptian blockades of the waterway have sparked two Middle East wars.

More than any amount of government propaganda, the position of the guns and the narrowness of the strait (used for importing much of Israel's oil) are a reminder of what Israel has sacrificed for peace with her largest Arab neighbour.

Directly opposite the grey barrels of the cannon is the island of Tiran and next to it, Sinai's Red Sea, which is infested with snakes and has no water resources. The two forbidding and uninhabited islands — scarcely talked about at the time of Camp David — have recently emerged as two of the most controversial areas in the delicate next stage of the peace process.

Under the terms of the 1979 treaty, Israel is due to hand them back to Egypt, along with the remaining 12,000 square miles of the Sinai peninsula. Security in zone C, the part of the treaty in which the islands are clearly designated as the responsibility of the American-organized Sinai multinational peace-keeping force, which is due to begin operations in March.

Controversy over the remote islands was sparked when Prince Fahd of Saudi Arabia — which leased the two islands to Egypt in the 1950s to facilitate the blockade of the Tiran Strait — was quoted as telling Saudi university students that the Egyptian government was responsible for returning

them "to the mother country". The claim fuelled growing anxiety in Israel about the future of the islands after the final withdrawal.

In recent talks in Cairo, Israel's foremost defence minister, the former general Ariel Sharon, agreed to accept Egyptian assurances about the islands, which will be patrolled by Egyptian civilian police after April 26 and also come under supervision from the Sinai force.

Probably no by coincidence, one of the two bases for the new force is now being built on a barren cliff-top looking straight over the sparkling water to the rocky shores of Tiran Island. Working against the clock, a force of 250 men, more than half of them imported labour from Thailand, is struggling to complete the camp in time for the arrival of the first infantry soldiers.

Though the new force is intended to be multinational, there seems little doubt that its predominant character will be American (one reason why the Reagan administration was so anxious for

even minimal European participation). As I was driven around the 150-acre site last week by Bob Jaggard, the resident US Army corps engineer, there was every sign that it would soon be taking on the feel of what one worker described as "little America".

Mr Jaggard, from Silver Spring, Maryland, described the construction problems caused by the long-running indecision about the participation of British, French, West German and Dutch contingents to join those of the United States, Fiji, Uruguay and Colombia.

With little prospect being held out of the Egyptians of managing to maintain the tourist trade brought to the area under Israeli occupation, attention is being paid to providing maximum recreation facilities for Egyptian troops who will be stationed

even in the growing lobby against the April withdrawal, pointed out that no Israeli military figure of any stature had opposed the peace treaty on strategic or tactical grounds. It concluded: "The return of the Sinai is not a happening in a vacuum. The return of the area is being made in a political context and under security guarantees. A violation of either the political process or the guarantees will place Israel in a better military position than before."

According to official figures supplied to *The Times*, the Israeli infrastructure breaks down as \$10,000m for airfields, bases and facilities (which will be handed over minus secret installations which will be destroyed); \$5,000m for oilfields already returned to the Egyptians and \$2,000m for roads and settlements.

He said: "By withdrawing from Sinai, the Israeli defence force has shortened its line of supply. It has rearranged its forces in the Negev and other parts of Israel from where they can be quickly and easily concentrated against a threat from either direction. It has eliminated the call-up of reserves, paralysing the economy every time there is an emergency."

The article, specifically aimed at the growing lobby against the April withdrawal, pointed out that no Israeli military figure of any stature had opposed the peace treaty on strategic or tactical grounds. It concluded: "The return of the Sinai is not a happening in a vacuum. The return of the area is being made in a political context and under security guarantees. A violation of either the political process or the guarantees will place Israel in a better military position than before."

Letter from Amman

Jordanians count their economic blessings

Amman shows strikingly the impact of money from the Gulf which would have poured into Lebanon, were it not for the continual strife there. Twenty years or so ago it still consisted principally of one long, main street along a narrow valley with buildings thrusting up the slopes to embryonic suburbs. A rough and noisy hill-country capital with about 200,000 inhabitants and a strong dash of Bedouin insouciance, it was often the butt of unflattering comparisons with Beirut and Damascus.

Today, the burgeoning "greater Amman", reaching out across the seven hills to assimilate towns such as Sweileh, seven miles to the north-west, has 1.2 million people. This is almost half Jordan's total population, of whom at least 50 per cent are Palestinians driven over from the West Bank by the 1948 and 1967 wars.

"This is about the best place to be in the Middle East at present," said a Palestinian surgeon who has tried most of the alternatives.

The original city centre, spruced up a bit but essentially unchanged, and its adjoining *souks* are now dominated by new areas with luxury shops, restaurants, supermarkets and towering hotels along the crests of the hills, all given a measure of redeeming grace by mandatory use of the honey-tinged local stone as facing on outside walls. Muggings are unknown, women shop at night unaccompanied and more of them, are to be seen driving cars — even large estate cars — than in Cairo or Baghdad.

As one of the oldest continuously inhabited places on earth — it was the Philadelphi of the Greeks and Romans — Amman has known many a heyday but never before such manifest affluence. "That," said the taxi driver, indicating a palace-like structure with gardens being landscaped around it, "is the new villa of a Palestinian who has become rich in Saudi Arabia. Ten bedrooms and a swimming pool."

By no means the only one. Lesser dwellings, often still sumptuous by European standards, have sprouted all over open country where

land can now cost twice as much as in London. Ostentation being important, the roofs of some mansions are surmounted by massive imitations of the Eiffel Tower, bearing sundials and antennas for radio and television.

Because of inadequate refuse collection, huge tracts of hilly land still untouched by bulldozers are strewn with wisp of nylon wrappings and plastic bottles with spring daisies and thistles pushing up between them.

Also tailing far behind the urban expansion is the municipal sewage system, inaugurated within the past decade to replace the ubiquitous septic tanks. It is, however, now reaching the Jebel Hussein (25,000) and Wahdat (24,000) refugee camps or, more accurately, the surrounding area, although still administered by UNRWA, (the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees) have long since become integrated into the city itself.

As for sanitation, it is responsible for flies in summer and eye and intestinal infections, especially among children, such improvements help to reduce the social imbalance. King Hussein's Government seems, in fact, to apply the maxim that man may tolerate the spectacle of much wealth provided he is not simultaneously subjected to extreme poverty.

No matter how overcrowded the camps, their miseries have been alleviated for many families by acquisitions such as refrigerators, stoves and televisions, evidence of four years of full employment in Jordan and remittances from grown-up children working in the Gulf. So tight is the labour market that, in spite of the diplomatic breach since Camp David, the Government maintains an open-door policy towards Egyptians, here in their many thousands and often eager to work under conditions unacceptable to any self-respecting refugee.

Contractors also bring in South Koreans, Filipinos, Indians and Pakistanis. For Jordanians — all refugees are nationals — minimum daily pay in the building trade is 5 Jordanian dinars, almost £8.

Alan McGregor

Britain presses chemical arms ban despite US

By Our Foreign Staff

Britain yesterday tabled proposals aimed at making sure that countries comply with any international ban on chemical weapons. The move was made in the 40-nation United Nations Disarmament Committee in Geneva.

The British recommendations include the setting up of an international consultative committee to carry out on-site inspections and to seal up weapon production plants within six months of the convention coming into force.

Asked how this initiative tallied with the recent American decision to manufacture new nerve gas weapons, the Foreign Office in London later said it appreciated the position of the United States, which was attempting to counterbalance the large Soviet stockpile of chemical weapons.

At the same time, the British Government thought it important to continue to press for an international

convention to outlaw these weapons. Britain destroyed its stocks of chemical weapons many years ago, and does not plan to build them up again.

Mr David Summerhayes, the British delegate in Geneva, underlined the need for adequate verification through every stage of compliance with a treaty, starting with the declaration and destruction of stockpiles and production facilities.

He said that international supervision would have to be supplemented by satellite surveys to trace any chemicals of known military significance.

On-site investigation by the consultative committee — composed of representatives of each state party to the convention — would be required in doubtful circumstances. Plants would be monitored until disposed of or converted within 10 years of a country's adhering to a treaty.

IRAN URGED TO END TORTURE

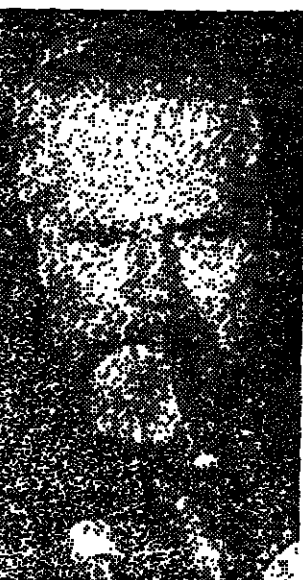
By David Cross

Amnesty International announced today that it had appealed to the Iranian leadership for a public ban on the torture of political prisoners.

In its appeal, the rights organization said that it had received hundreds of detailed reports of torture inflicted by revolutionary guards in Iran's jails. Some prisoners had died under torture, others been hanged, apparently to make it appear that they had been legally executed.

Amnesty said that during 1981 it had received more than 200 detailed statements of cases involving torture, some of them backed by photographs and medical reports. They included descriptions of special torture rooms in Evin prison in Tehran, where prisoners were burned with iron and cigarettes, beaten, kicked, whipped and subjected to mock executions.

The tortures were similar to abuses perpetrated under the Shah before the 1979 revolution, Amnesty said.



France honours Orson Welles

Orson Welles, the film producer, director and actor, facing the press at an hotel in Paris. He was in the city to be awarded the Medal of Honour by President Mitterrand at a ceremony yesterday.

BL uses new technology in fight back

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BL Fighting back

The Soviet Union has given General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the Polish leader, a discreet vote of confidence by inviting him to Moscow next week.

That is the view of diplomatic analysts here who point out that the announcement of the visit comes only days before the Polish Communist Party's Central Committee holds a plenary session during which the general is expected to come under some criticism for his relatively moderate policies.

But by stipulating that the Moscow visit will take place in the first week of March, the Soviet Union is clearly signalling its belief that General Jaruzelski will retain his position as party chief.

Party hardliners — pro-Soviet, Marxist fundamentalists — have been gathering strength since the declaration of martial law and have been expressing, in oblique ways, varying degrees of impatience.

The declaration of martial law raised expectations among Poles that hardline Communists that have never been fulfilled. The common assumption has been that the Soviet Union sympathized with these feelings.

Having agreed to — or orchestrated, in the view of the United States — military takeover Moscow must be frustrated with the results. The party has still not

regrouped and still not healed its wounds; the economy has if anything deteriorated and leaders of Solidarity, the independent trade union movement, though jailed, still seem to have an emotional sway over many sectors of Polish society.

A sign of this frustration is Soviet pressure on the Poles to drive a wedge between the Roman Catholic Church and Solidarity, though it seems merely to have resulted in a propaganda attack on churchmen visiting internment camps.

Martial law has, however, achieved two goals in the Soviet interest: it has ended strikes and the constant challenging of the party and it has brought the Polish Government much more firmly into the Soviet orbit.

Trybuna Ludu, the party organ, today said "We must orientate our foreign cooperation ties, and more strongly so far, towards the fraternal countries of the CMEA (Comecon, the economic grouping), the Soviet Union, the friends who take a vital and honest interest in the normalization of life in our country."

The Soviet Union thus appears to be more or less satisfied with these two limited achievements since martial law. It is not, above all, in the Soviet interest to see General Jaruzelski lose control, even to an avowed

hardliner like Mr Stefan Olezowski.

Having sanctioned the state of affairs in Poland, it must not see it through. General Jaruzelski who is also Prime Minister, head of the military council and Minister of Defence will only cede his leadership of the party when international law ends.

These judgments are drawn largely from party sources who are inclined towards the liberal reformist wing and therefore may contain a certain amount of wishful thinking. But the verdict seems to be correct: the hardliners are making more noise than they have genuine influence, at least within the Central Committee.

□ Mr Lech Walesa, the interned leader of Solidarity, today quashed speculation that the baptism of his baby daughter would be turned into some form of public spectacle. (Reuters reports).

Reports published in the West have suggested that he might be set free for the baptism and that the Polish prime minister, Archbishop Józef Glemp would officiate, thus turning the ceremony into what would amount to a political event.

Today, Father Henryk Jankowski, Mr Walesa's parish priest, said the Walesas wanted the baptism to be a private family affair.

Leading article, page 11

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Police chief shot dead in Naples

Naples. — Two unidentified men shot dead Police Marshal Antonio Salzano, aged 52, at his house, and officials said the murder might be connected with a courtroom shooting here yesterday.

An anonymous caller telephoned a newspaper to say that Signor Salzano, a senior official, had been murdered "because he supplied the arms for the courtroom shooting."

One detainee was shot dead and two others were seriously injured when a fourth prisoner attacked them in a courtroom. The latest blow in an interminable war for control of the Camorra, the Naples Mafia.

Signor Salzano's duties included supervising the transport of prisoners between the city's Poggioreale prison and the court.

Bomb claim by monarchists

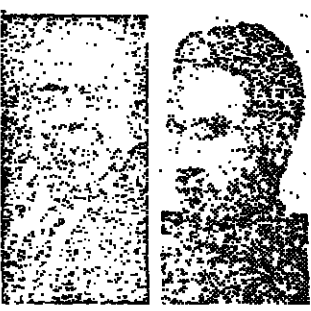
Tehran. — An Iranian monarchist group has claimed to have planted a bomb in a refuse van which went off outside the Vahd/Asr barracks killing 11 people and injuring 11 on Monday. "We planted the bomb," a telephone caller told the Agency France-Presse bureau in Tehran speaking for the Pars Monarchist Group.

Monday was the anniversary of the accession to the throne of Reza Khan, father of the last Shah.

Israeli show called off

New York. — The Metropolitan Museum of Art has called off a planned Israeli archaeological exhibition, because many of the pieces come from "disputed territories," Mr Philip de Montebello, the curator, said. Most of the pieces chosen by him came from the old Rockefeller Museum on the occupied West Bank. It would be taking a "de facto stand" by showing this material as "the heritage of the state of Israel," Mr de Montebello added.

Gaddafi tries to end rift



Bourguiba Gaddafi

Tunis. — Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, arrived in Tunisia to try to normalize bilateral relations since an abortive merger attempt between the two countries in 1974.

The merger failed after President Habib Bourguiba of Tunisia reneged on the agreement shortly after signing it, stating that he had been misled. The two leaders will be meeting for the first time in eight years.

High turnout in Greenland poll

Copenhagen. — Early returns showed an exceptionally high turnout in Greenland's referendum on continued membership of the EEC. A narrow majority is expected to lead to the territory's withdrawal from the Community in 1984 (Christopher Follett writes).

Greenlanders, who have home rule under the Danish crown, want closer ties with other North American Eskimo communities and resent the jurisdiction of European bureaucracy over — in particular — their offshore fishing zones. This is despite the fact that Greenland has prospered greatly within the EEC, receiving 645m Kroner (£43m) in EEC aid since joining in 1973.

CORRECTION

The report from New York yesterday on lung cancer should have said that cigar and pipe smoking were causal, not casual, factors in cancer deaths.

Carrington plea for patience on EEC budget

From Ian Murray, Brussels, Feb 23

"Patience, tenacity and tolerance" are the essential qualities required in European statesmen in trying to settle the vexed question of Britain's budget contribution to the EEC, Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, said tonight.

Speaking in Hamburg on the state of the Community, he showed that Britain had not budged from its argument that more money had to be available for policies other than agriculture.

In talks earlier in Brussels with the other EEC foreign ministers, however, he found that opposition to the British standpoint was still very strong. It was agreed that a full day should be set aside at the next Foreign Council on March 23 to discuss the issue and that a report should be jointly prepared by the European Commission and the Council on the subject. But even that decision was a grudging one.

The foreign ministers are due to report on the matter to the European summit at the end of next month, but Italy today suggested that there really was no point in even bringing the subject up before the heads of government then. That is clearly impossible, but it proves the reluctance among Britain's partners to talk about so disruptive a Community subject.

Lord Carrington hopes that it will be possible for the meeting on March 23 to discuss "illustrative figures" on how much money is involved so that the argument can be brought out into the open. He suggested that the whole matter could even be settled then, although his speech in Hamburg showed that he really did not envisage such a quick solution.

The report for study at the next meeting will be prepared by Mr Gaston Thorn, the President of the European Commission, and by Mr Leo Tindemans, the Belgian

Foreign Minister, who is the current president of the Council.

Mr Tindemans said after today's meeting that he was neither optimistic nor pessimistic about being able to find a solution, although he hoped agreement might be possible at the next Council.

"The will is present to avoid a major crisis in the Community," he said. In an article published in the *Hamburger Abendblatt* to coincide with his visit there, Lord Carrington hinted that finding a solution would not be easy for Britain any more than for other countries. "It is bound to be a difficult and painful process before interests are reconciled and solutions found," he wrote.

In both the article and the speech he emphasized that West Germany was in the same difficulties as Britain in fighting for a fair budget contribution, making it obvious that support from Bonn is seen as a vital factor in obtaining the kind of concessions which Britain wants. Lord Carrington reacted tersely to reports that Mr Alexander Haig, the United States secretary of state, had called him a "duplicitous bastard" (AP reports).

It was Lord Carrington's first direct reaction to remarks Mr Haig was reported to have made to staff members during a freewheeling private discussion last October. "I'm only thankful that I do not have people like that around me who tell tales, or whatever it was," Lord Carrington told reporters.

He declined to elaborate, beyond saying he was talking about Mr Haig's staff, the apparent source of the leak. According to the report, Mr Haig made the remark during a discussion of British policy towards Israel and Arab countries. Spokesmen for both officials have asserted that Lord Carrington and Mr Haig have an excellent relationship.

Uganda violence

Knowledge of death at the point of a gun

In this report on Uganda, Bernard Debusmann, a Reuters correspondent recently in Kampala, explains the roots of violence in the country.

The attack by guerrillas on a Kampala army barracks is the latest incident in a city where many forms of violence are commonplace.

"The moral fabric of our society has been torn apart," Mr Patrice Maseko Kuyuni, Uganda's Minister of Rehabilitation, said in a recent interview. "The Amin years and the war changed mental attitudes, made people callous."

"Take someone who is 16 years old now. He hardly knew death and he knew guns, and we have lots of guns in this country."

The climate of insecurity is only one of the problems the Government has to solve to return Uganda to its former prosperity. According to government figures, Uganda has more university graduates than Kenya and Tanzania put together. But many fled the rule of the gun and live abroad.

The picture is not all bleak. Western economists say that the Government's economic measures of last year have begun to take hold. A recovery package, drawn up in consultation with advisers from the International Monetary Fund last year, "floated" the Ugandan shilling, sharply raised producer prices for key commodities (the price for coffee was quadrupled), and lifted price controls.

The Government expects Uganda to be self-sufficient in food, as it was until 1971, by the middle of the year. In a gesture of confidence, West Germany and Britain wiped out Uganda's debts, the EEC increased its aid, and the IMF provided \$179m (about £90m) to speed the country's recovery.

Meanwhile, the government of Uganda, a country which has been a killing-ground for the past decade, is trying to make a disciplined army out of the gunmen in uniform who helped to overthrow General Idi Amin in 1979. Kampala residents say that,

compared with a few months ago, there are few soldiers in the streets. Road-blocks are manned by police or a paramilitary unit called the Special Force.

This unit, now about 600 strong, is being trained by a three-man team from Falcon Star, a private British company composed of former members of the British armed forces.

Help in training the regular Army has come from Sudan, Tanzania and Kenya, according to Mr Peter Oti, Minister of State for Defence. The United States has offered eight places for officer training, which have been accepted.

Amin's murderous eight-year reign was ended by a 45,000-strong invasion force from Tanzania backed by a motley band of armed Ugandan exiles who had little common but scant military experience and the resolve to get rid of Amin.

This Army is now estimated at about 10,000 and has been blamed for much of the violence which has continued to rack Uganda since Amin lost power.

"We are trying to put into shape a young Army," said Mr Oti in an interview. "It is an Army which has to be converted from a liberation army into a proper professional army."

It is an uphill task, diplomats here say, because the armed forces now have a bad image. According to opponents of President Obote's Government, the Army and a ragged militia of about 5,000 have been responsible for a long list of brutalities, or even surpassing, those committed by Idi Amin's henchmen.

"Since the Government came to power (in December 1980), thousands of Ugandans have been arrested and subjected to torture," Mr Paul Semogerere, leader of the opposition Democratic Party said.

Yet, judging from the accounts of Ugandans and foreign diplomats, the situation in Uganda has been slowly improving, if only in terms of bad things happening less frequently than they used to.



Street terror: A man shouting for help as another lies maimed on the ground and (below) the pall of smoke

Car bombs kill 12 in Beirut

From Robert Fisk, Beirut, Feb 23

By Beirut standards, it was a fairly routine bloodbath. The car bombers had judiciously chosen the most crowded street market in West Beirut and left their cargoes — two Peugeot saloons crammed with explosives — in a road jammed with traffic.

Raouche was once a fashionable cornice above the Mediterranean; but today it is a rundown, shabby highway of stalls, hucksters and lemonade stands, so the victims came from the poor of Lebanon's capital.

The death toll had reached only 12 by tonight, which is a modest casualty figure for Beirut's bombers. When the Iraqi Embassy blew up last December, 61 people were killed.

But today's little assault incinerated half a dozen stall holders and their customers and blasted tons of glass on to shoppers and passing motorists. The shock waves of the explosion could be felt a gentle pressure on the chest — almost two miles away and there was no mistaking the coil of black smoke that drifted up over the sea.

For hours afterwards, blood lay splashed along a hundred yards of pavement and 16 charred cars lay smouldering beside the road.

The second bomb exploded 10 minutes after the first, when ambulance crews were already trying to save the wounded, and within an hour Beirut's telephone terrorists were in action.

The Front for the Liberation of Lebanon from Foreigners, which claimed responsibility for most of the bombings in the country in recent months, insisted that it had planted the car bombs. Then a hitherto unheard of organization of equally doubtful provenance, The Holy Struggle Movement, said that it was to blame.

No motives were claimed and none advanced, although the political effect of the bombs was the same as always, another fractional lessening of public confidence in the authorities.

Atlanta murder trial man denies dumping body

From Neil Sutherland, Atlanta, Feb 23

Wayne Williams, who is accused of two of a number of murders committed here, denied throwing anything — let alone a body — off a bridge over the Chattahoochee River. The 23-year-old music producer seemed calm and confident today as he defended himself against allegations that he committed the two murders and had links with 10 other killings.

He told the packed courtroom: "I didn't throw anything off that bridge."

Mr Williams, who is slightly built, said he was not big enough to have lifted a dead body. "I haven't ever tried to lift 140 lb. I doubt if I could."

He said he was in the area about 2 am on May 22 when police on watch claim they heard a splash, such as a body falling into the water. He said he was there because he was trying to find the home of a woman he was supposed to meet for a musical audition.

"I wanted to find it when I wasn't caught up in rush-

hour traffic." When he was unable to find the address he started for home, but was stopped by police some distance from the bridge.

Mr Williams said he drove over the bridge without stopping, but stopped to use a telephone after he had crossed it.

When police stopped him and said they knew he had thrown a body into the river, Mr Williams said he replied: "You must be crazy."

He denied that he was a "media freak" who delighted in the publicity that surrounded his arrest and even gave a press conference. Speaking of his feelings about reporters who surrounded his home at the time of the arrest, he said: "As far as I was concerned, they could all go and jump in the river."

He said he spoke to the press to try to put his side of the story and in reaction to constant police surveillance and trailing, which was "just ridiculous".

BRITON IN COMPUTER BAN CASE

From Our Own Correspondent, New York, Feb 23

An Englishman has been indicted on 30 counts of selling restricted high technology equipment to Poland, Romania and Bulgaria.

Brian Moller-Butcher, owner of MES Equipment Inc. in Boston, denied the allegations before a district court there.

The charges are the first of their kind since October when President Reagan ordered that no American high technology should be sold to the Soviet bloc.

Mr Ed Kierich, a spokesman for the United States Customs Service in Washington, said today that the enforcement operation, known as Exodus, involved teams of customs agents, inspectors, patrol officers, import specialists and accountants in 10 cities.

The federal indictment against the men says they exported equipment that was "controlled for national security reasons".

Black activist's son is murdered in Harlem

From Christopher Thomas, New York, Feb 23

Another son of Mr Roy Innis, the black civil rights activist, has been murdered. He was shot twice in the chest in Harlem after an apparent robbery on Saturday.

His absence from home since Saturday had not been regarded as unusual by his family. Mr Wendell Garnett, a senior official of the congress, said: "Alexander was a grown man who was pretty much on his own."

Alexander had been working as a driver for a delivery service and was a keen amateur boxer with hopes of becoming a professional. He had worked with his father's organization and in the 1970s headed a "peace patrol" which helped the elderly and fought crime.

His father, who has headed the congress since 1968, is frequently criticised for his domination of the organization. He has five surviving sons and two daughters. Last year he faced charges of having with other executives of the organization, misappropriated \$500,000 (£250,000) of the group's funds in 1976-77.

unconfirmed report that Alexander was involved in a dispute with three people, one of whom shot him.

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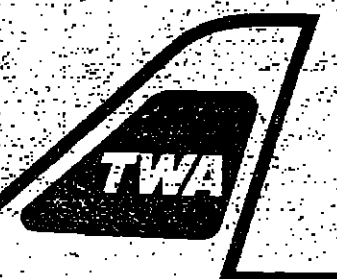
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Four cities, four crises, 2: Glasgow housing

Home is where the Hell is

Glasgow City Chambers belie the image of a crumbling city. The building is on the grand Victorian scale, braced by marble and an air of great poise that would be polished to the dulllest councilor and authority to the most banal council minute. High, elegantly-decorated ceilings and sweeping stairways tell that the city forefathers were men of wealth and weighty reputation who made "Clyde-built" into a synonym for robust, high quality engineering and who supplied the world with ships and steam engines.

It does not appear to be the civic centre of a city with some of the worst social problems in Western Europe, that spends millions each year repairing the work of vandals or handling the problems caused by unemployment, violence, drink, urban deprivation and a huge civic debt. The chambers are a memory of Glasgow as it was, the workshop of the British Empire. Beyond the city centre with its many handsome buildings and out in the wastelands of Springburn, Maryhill and the soulless peripheral housing estates at Drumchapel and Easterhouse, or the sprawl of dead dockland, the trouble is clear to see.

It is the scale of Glasgow's housing crisis that is daunting. All industrial cities with a similar history of pre-war greatness share the problem but rarely on such a scale, and decent housing is recognised as the important key to improvement. One estate alone contains more people than the city of Perth and Glasgow is ringed by such estates; barrack blocks of flats threaded by narrow roads and separated by bleak open space.

They are places of despair where unemployment can reach 50 per cent, where families run to three generations without a member finding a job and where the form of extremism may take root. Rent arrears run to more than £4m a year, half the council tenants receive some form of state help and Glasgow has more council tenants than any other city in Britain. Two thirds of the housing stock is council-owned, a reflection of the city's socialist background which has helped substantially towards creating a civic debt approaching £1,000m.

Against this, the city has shrunk in size dramatically. Glasgow in recent years had a population of more than a million but by decanting people to the New Towns of west Scotland and through nationalised industry, the population now stands at 762,000. The fault for the upheaval and the social destruction that followed may be shared by the private and public sectors. Glasgow's industrialists frankly failed to respond to change when the world no longer needed the ships and machines they could produce, many famous names sank into liquidation.

New techniques required fewer workers yet Glaswegians, who paradoxically are renowned for exporting their skills all over the world, were reluctant to move even a few miles down the Clyde to find work. The post-war housing crisis demanded an urgent solution and so the "instant" schemes, which had no thought for social amenity, arose on the edge of the city, isolated from the rest of Glaswegians with no sense of community.

Mr Andrew Flockhart, the director of housing for Glasgow, took over the task three years ago of running the largest department of its kind in western Europe with multi-million pound assets mislaid down the Clyde to find work. He sees the social revival of the inner city as a joint operation between public and private sectors. Since his arrival, and a more enlightened approach by the council, there have been distinct improvements in the shoddy parts of the city.



Getting the past in perspective

Mrs Mary Brockett is a beneficiary of the battle to beat the housing crisis in East Glasgow, the largest area of multiple deprivation in Europe. She looks out of the window of her new one-bedroom flat across the street to the "dear old dump with pebble-dash walls" where she and her husband used to live. Her new home

has been provided by the GEAR project which in six years has completed £120m in housing expenditure. The most important improvement is that she now has a lift when the block was formerly done up it was a bit up-market, but it's gone down recently and the old atmosphere's starting to come back.

Instead of flattening the old tenements and either leaving empty prairies of broken stone or a new growth in characterless concrete, the accent has been on renovation.

The council has released land for private sector development even by most council council estates on an understanding that the developer renovates some of the derelict council property nearby. A "homesteading" scheme, through which the council made vandalised flats wind-proof and watertight and then sold them at a

discount to first-time home buyers, has been very successful—even in places where it had been impossible to let the flats to council tenants.

"The homesteaders finished off the flats themselves and many of them are now little palaces. Cars are appearing outside some houses where there have not been cars for years. We know from experience that this kind of improvement can lift an area just as quickly as vandalism can bring it down", a council officer said. Last year two banks pro-

vided £4.7m between them for home loans and a building society, underwritten by the council, provided mortgages for property in areas of the city that "did not normally attract building society finance".

Glasgow, in spite of its troubles, remains a brisk, raw and a dry-humoured place, with a distinct corporate personality. The Red Clydeside image may have been usurped for the moment by the councillors of Lothian on the Forth and it is significant that the city did

not suffer the kind of riots that tore other places with a similar record of unemployment, urban decay and deprivation. Why Glasgow escaped has been the subject of much speculation. The answer probably lies in the wider tolerance of minority groups in the west of Scotland, probably because they are fewer, not concentrated in ghettos and because the police are closer to the community and generate less of the open hostility that appears south of the border.

Ronald Faux

An inventory of failure

The Glasgow housing estates are notoriously the worst in Britain. But there are similar examples on a smaller scale in Liverpool and Manchester, also in new towns such as Coventry and Corby—places where even the most persuasive of newly-elected Conservative ministers in those

households in England as a whole are in owner-occupation, in the English inner city areas only one household in six is owner-occupied. And in the inner areas of the cities the proportion of rented council housing is higher than nationally. There is also more private rented accommodation in the inner areas, a reflection of the kind of people who remain, the poor, the ethnic, the single.

It is in the inner cities, too, that the nineteenth century catches up. Just over a quarter of England's housing was built before 1919. In the inner cities the proportion ranges between 40 per cent and 60 per cent—despite the scale of clearances when bulldozing was fashionable. Between 1975 and 1980 17,500 dwellings were demolished in Glasgow, 6,500 in Liverpool, nearly 10,000 in Manchester. Few councils do not now pay at least lip service to improvement and refurbish-

ment of the existing stock of houses. However the latest figures, for 1977, show that in the inner city areas dwellings lacking at least one "amenity" (such as an inside toilet or hot running water) are appreciably greater in proportion than for dwellings of the same tenure elsewhere.

Later this year, provided ministers do not get cold feet about what will inevitably be interpreted as a call for more public expenditure, the Government will publish the latest survey of housing conditions (in England). This is likely to show absolute improvement in several of the gross indices of housing quality. But, worryingly, a marked rise in the proportion of houses in a state of serious disrepair will be revealed in more modern houses built since 1919 and in the owner-occupied sector.

The survey will undoubtedly strengthen the arguments in favour of channelling public housing subsidies towards repair and maintenance of the existing housing stock. The problem of disrepair is not confined to the inner city; Outer

Housing Tenure %			
	Owner occupied	Council rented	Private rented and housing association rented
MANCHESTER	36	47	17
GLASGOW	25	59	15
COVENTRY	65	22	11
SWANSEA	61	29	10

*Glasgow figures for 1980; last column includes Scottish Special Housing Association
Source: Census of Population, 1981; Glasgow district council

The Editor in Chief of Cosmopolitan wrote Sex and the Single Girl 20 years ago: this week British Cosmopolitan celebrates its 10th birthday

Love, work, and Helen Gurley Brown

"Love and work" said Mrs Brown, a campaigner for women's rights "are the Big Two. We were the first people to tell women that work can be — and ought to be — just about as thrilling as a love affair." Helen Gurley Brown would probably not recognise herself as a leader of women's liberation, but twenty years ago she wrote Sex and the Single Girl a light hearted tract with an entirely serious purpose. Cosmopolitan, the magazine which grew out of the sacks of correspondence she received from the home was founded in 1965. It now has a circulation of just under three million, and she is Editor-in-Chief.

Most women's magazines could be described as trade papers, and the Cosmopolitan girl in America is a woman between the ages of 18 and 34, who lives in a city of over one million population, and who earns her own living. British Cosmopolitan which celebrates 10 years of life this week, is top of the circulation league of women's magazines at 440,000. It differs from its American parent in that 50% of its readers are under 25, they are well educated working women. Under the editor of Deirdre McSharry, editor for the past 9 years, it continues on a highly successful course.

Helen Gurley Brown is a slim, elegant woman, with a brogue brogue which is nothing. The ast of power in America is a corner office with windows, and her own is pretty, flower filled and wall papered, and is quite clearly the powerhouse.

Twenty years ago girls were secretaries, and went to job interviews wearing hats and gloves. Helen Gurley Brown can remember the first woman she met now had a secretary of her own. I was a secretary and women were secretaries, librarians, nurses, teachers and sales girls — a woman with a secretary was like meeting goddess, somebody from another world, another planet. It was wonderful to have a good job and get your boss's speech ready and type it and hand him his itinerary, plane ticket and Burberry and send him to the airport, but it's much better when you have your own speech and your ticket and itinerary and your Burberry and send you to the airport. It's better to get recognition for what you do, and we have given this message to our readers from the beginning.

Sex and the Single Girl instructed young women to make the best of themselves, and the most of their work. Helen Gurley Brown had seventeen (or more) secretarial jobs before going to work for the big American advertising agency in New York, the McCann-Erickson, where Mr Belding (a discerning man) noticed the energy, ability and charm and promoted her secretary into being one of the highest paid women copy writers of the time.

The book was sometimes witty, sometimes cynical ("If your husband likes his wife, you like his wife. If he hates his wife, you like his wife. This will establish you as a saint") and sometimes perhaps rather too mercenary — nothing was for nothing, and looking back over 20 years, one comes to the conclusion that she was right. She was also a liberator, in that she revealed what everyone knew but were afraid to say. "It was considered a very rare



Helen Gurley Brown

power, responsibility, work, money. There are several things left which trouble her about a woman's world: the fact that women still don't get equal pay for equal work, and the problem of motherhood and a career. No one ever asks a man if he would give up his work for his family life. "We did moderate the women's liberation movement but it's wonderful — I think it's working good!" She points out that she doesn't have a college degree, she was never considered beautiful or especially intelligent, her family was poor and she wrote an extraordinary successful book. She is the Editor of a magazine that sells just under 3 million copies. "I still feel the same excitement as I did when we began. I used to love advertising anything you think or feel — and anything which makes you successful in your personal life can be transferred into business, your energy, your intuition, your empathy. In editing, you also have to use your judgment, and I practically would work without being paid, I enjoy it so much. Elegant, assured, witty and absolutely in charge, she is, and always will be, the Cosmo Girl.

Philipa Toomey

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THE ARTS

Opera

Wagner's own sort of midsummer magic

Die Meistersinger

Covent Garden

The Royal Opera's most recent production of Wagner's *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* dates from 1969. It was not very distinguished to look at, still less so at its only revival two years later, since when it has remained under wraps. Now it has taken on a new lease of life, thanks to an interesting, skilfully chosen cast, virtually all new, to a newly rethought production by Hans Hartleb using Barry Kay's existing sets, and to Sir Colin Davis's characteristically enthusiastic and penetrating musical interpretation, the first time he has conducted it. Do not expect perfection, but already on Monday night Wagner's midsummer magic was working potently.

Davis launched the overture warmly, lyrically and grandly. Occasionally, here and later, some dislocation of ensemble momentarily blurred the clean textures; generally we were drawn to admire the vital lift, even the bounce, of Davis's music, and the third verse of Beckmesser's serenade, and the popular revelry before the song-contest by the Paganini. More important, Davis maintained the music's tension so that each act could be felt as a whole, not just as set pieces with connecting passages. Barry Kay's sets look respectable, and Hartleb finds them dramatically serviceable too. It is inconvenient that in church Eva sits with her back to her suitor Stolzing; their future ogling during the hymn has to become something less clandestine, and I was not surprised that some of the congregation eyed the bold

stranger askance as they left St Katharine's Church.

The chief merits of Hartleb's production are firm, credible characterization of all the principal roles, and neat, lucid presentation of the major set-pieces. Each of the 12 Meistersingers is a personality, particularly Francis Egerton's dynamic mini-Vogelgesang, John Dobson's ancient Zorn, bespectacled and snowy-bearded, and Barry More's pop-in-jay Kothner ("Zu einer Freieung" needs more tonal substance than he gave it, though the later "Koloratur" was nicely voiced, as is proper for the proud clerk of such a guild).

Gwynne Howell's Pogner gave vocal and musical pleasure all the evening, his tiny monologue at the beginning of the second act as much as his big formal Address about his plans for the Feast of St John. It was a pleasure to see quite a young Pogner, especially since Howell is regularly cast in grandfather parts, and has to disguise his handsome young bass. Again I admired his vivid, fluent German.

Geraint Evans has been our regular and masterly Beckmesser for more than 20 years. In the Covent Garden revival his portrayal was moving, perilously towards burlesque. This time it has recovered credibility and something approaching likability. As referee of his rival's entrance examination, this Beckmesser is dangerous, not absurd; his lucidatory mime in Sachs's workshop is absurd, but painfully realistic.

He is a gruesomely unprepossessing suitor for Eva (unlike Hermann Frey at Bayreuth), but so intent on his serenade beneath her window that his enthusiasm is



Lucia Popp's enchanting Eva, with Reiner Goldberg (left) and Gwynne Howell

shared, and you are almost sorry when David beats him up. I have to report that Sir Geraint's voice is in lusty form, though he ducked his last top A in the workshop.

Hartleb brings Beckmesser back to the festive gathering at the end, despite his discomfiture, and even shows his welcomed affectionately by the circle of his fellow-guildsmen — Sir Geraint's meekness here is touching indeed. He has returned hardly observed. Just so, Hans Sachs's arrival at the Singing School goes unnoticed (a parallel?). Hans Soia is a big, burly man, and he holds the stage for the rest of the opera, an

unpretentious cobbler, but manfully the idol of his friends and neighbours.

Sotin's impersonation of Sachs is worth watching, even when he is not at the centre of the action, spying on the lovers as they plan to elope, amusingly observing the street-brawl from one side, not interfering until he can field Eva, Walter and David all with one set of actions. He is a gentle giant, as we realize from Sotin's unforced, exquisitely expressive account of his four famous monologues and the Cobbling Song — what a marvellous role for such a voice, and such an artistic tower of strength.

This Sachs is handsome too, and he is obviously dear to this Eva, Lucia Popp, a new impersonation for her, in a heavier sort of vocal music than heretofore. It suits her voice perfectly, and she shows a rich, spoiled young girl, high-spirited and generously affectionate, tall and willowily beautiful, resonant tone and absolutely delectable. She made sure that all the music in her part sounded as enchanting as Wagner (identifying with Sachs and Walter at once) carefully planned.

Much was hoped of the new Stolzing, Reiner Goldberg from the State Opera in East Berlin. He is personable in appearance, hardly romantic: his voice is big

and secure, but not heroically alluring. Hope may be fulfilled when he is familiar with the house and the production.

We have a winsome, eager new David in Robert Tear, delightful in his lesson on composition technique, robust in his assault on Beckmesser, almost unrecognizable without his beard and with a thatch on top. He looks the part, but, as with the other Apprentices, I always wish somebody would cast real boys (not girls in drag) and immediate post-graduate young men, for real credibility: this revival does well, if not ideally, in that respect.

William Mann

Television

Wit and wisdom

After the ambitious scale of *United Kingdom*, Jim Allen's new play was a rueful Mancunian comedy of approaching male menopause and marriage that was perfect in all its proportions and length — a rare quality now that single plays have started to follow serials into listlessness and obesity. At 55 minutes *Willie's Last Stand* (BBC 1) was just right. It was very funny, too. Marriage was what you undertook to share with the girls who went on saying no until you did, after which you spent the rest of your life wishing you had not; if the Government passed a law saying that all women and children would be provided for if their menfolk abandoned them, you would see the biggest jailbreak in history.

Willie (Paul Freeman), happily married to Bernice, did not agree: on the other hand, copping the birds was like getting the sun on your face and feeling at 40 the hand of old age tighten its grip. Willie decided to turn to the sun just once more, with the golfing widow and publican's wife Lil (the stunning and wise Colette O'Neill). He failed, and virtuously, paper-hungry Bernice's just was in. In the background, there was real marital brutality and tedium, the misery of unemployment and pride destroyed, together with mindless racist chatter in the Public Bar. Realism and believability throughout, plus a nice dryness and detachment to keep the comedy buoyant and sentimentality at bay.

"It was not a row of coffins," explained Isadora Duncan on an hallucination on tour in St Petersburg, "but fatigue." With all her gush about an art born of the sea, meetings of twin souls and acclaimed tourneys in America, Europe and Russia, Isadora is impossible to take entirely seriously, and yet, beyond the staggering self-consciousness and barefoot-in-the-door salesmanship, there is something heroic about her. I have not seen MacMillan's full-length ballet in the theatre, but remembering some of the less than welcoming reviews the original received, not least on this page, I should guess that Derek Bailey's film of Isadora (Granada) stretched the coherence of Gillian Freeman's scenario considerably.

Anthony Wall made a thoroughly artful film for Arena (BBC2) about the most artless of subjects, Roy Plomley and *Desert Island Discs*. Mr Plomley collaborated on the joke with quiet but liberated grace, first as a kind of benign keeper of the Heavenly Gate (perfect casting), next showing his security pass to the man at the door of the BBC, next as Nelson, and finally in Plomley's Ultimate Nightmare, as skipper of Broadcasting House itself, steering the ship like the Titanic, all lights ablaze, through storm-tossed seas. When not talking to Paul McCartney, Kenneth Galbraith, Frankie Howard, Trevor Brooking and The Lord Mayor of London, Plomley played the ultimate castaway behind a windbreak of Shakespeare and the Bible on a studio beach.

Michael Ratcliffe

Concerts

Purest Britten

Medici Quartet

Waterloo Room

A selection of twentieth-century British string quartets, which is what the Park Lane Group are offering in the series of four concerts that opened on Monday, is not at all the arid prospect it might first appear. For, after a century and a half of more or less permanent residence in Vienna, the music of the string quartet has lately found her dwelling further afield, and most of the great quartets of the last 50 years, when they have not been written by Shostakovich, have come from composers in English-speaking countries: Schoenberg, Carter and Babbitt in the United States, and here Britten, Tippett, Bridge and many others.

It was Britten's third quartet that completed and crowned this interesting concert, overshadowing everything else. Nor could it have been otherwise. The Medici were sometimes strained by the rarefaction of the music and the purity, but more than enough remained to make one wonder at the constant surprisingness achieved with minimum means: how the opening *Moderato* finds movement in rest, and rest in

movement; how the finale obliges one to regard its tune as accompaniment and its accompaniment as the main interest. Still more astonishing is the completeness with which Britten removes from his swan song all personal traits. His substance is the basic substance of the art, his matter of depth and generality that goes far beyond individual expression.

At the moment, with the piece still scintillating in my mind, I can think of nothing else from the last decade that contributes as much to musical experience — certainly not, unfortunately, the other three quartets in this programme.

Dominic Muldowney's first quartet, a student work, had the infirmity, the sketchiness that is one of his most attractive qualities, but it was a strangely unforgotten farewell to late romanticism. Elizabeth Lutyens's *Diurnal*, her Op 146, was an abstract dawn-to-dusk study of irritating Weberianism.

David Matthews's second quartet, though, was a work of generosity and passion, hampered only by a harmonic fixity at odds with its galloping ideas: perhaps the links with tonality could be loosened or made to work harder.

Paul Griffiths

RCS/Davies

Festival Hall

The specifically Catholic inspiration of *The Dream of Gerontius* might seem to limit the work's appeal. But the power of Cardinal Newman's imagery and the sincerity of Elgar's music have given it a universal and lasting popularity. Perhaps it is for this reason that its impact in performance depends more than ever on the integrity of the central character, Gerontius.

Kenneth Collins had some fine moments in his singing of the role, top notes ringing out heroically. But robustness is not everything here. Gerontius is by turns fearful, confident, vulnerable, expectant in this interpretation there was very little modulation of tone in pursuit of these varied states of mind. Where the melodic line cried out to be shaded, there was inflexibility and, in place of fervent entreaty, we had

operatic sobs. Mr Collins's cavalier wit with the text never boded well; Newman's poetry may not be everybody's taste but that is no reason to rewrite it. Most of all, I missed a sense of wonderment in this Gerontius, a sense of discovery.

Fortunately those qualities were present in abundance in the other two solo parts and in Meredith Davies's masterly handling of the score. Mr Davies's pace was measured, his ear for detail acute. Every bar throbbed with psychic energy.

Alfreda Hodgson as the Angel and Brian Rayner Cook in the two bass roles impressed their own stamp on the performance, with lovingly phrased, intelligently projected lines. The vigorous singing of the Royal Choral Society lacked nothing in weight or grandeur, but some passages left them cruelly exposed. In sum, a noble *Gerontius* sadly undermined by its central character.

Barry Millington

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Theatre

Sisters

Questors

No movie is so sad as life, says one of the women in Michael Tremblay's *Sisters* "movies don't last a lifetime." From time to time M. Tremblay's characters appear in a spotlight to speak their innermost thoughts or to exchange private conversations remote from the bustle of a party that continues around them. All the characters are women, and the party is more Montreal's modern equivalent of a barn-raising, a gathering together of neighbours who have come to glue in the one million trading stamps received by one of the women as a prize in a competition.

The play dates from 1968, and the dated ring of truth suggests that many of its elements would go back further in memory. The uniformity of Roman Catholic belief, the tendency towards group prayer with a radio broadcast of the "Hail Marys" and the chorused antiphany to premarital sex, are all frozen in a stylized, benevolently satirical fashion.

M. Tremblay sympathetically engages with the problems of his women, none of whom is free to determine her own life. They are not all dependent on men, although marriage has forced one woman to endure the twice-daily sexual demands of her

husband, another has worked in a dubious club until she reached the age of 30, only to be tossed aside by her lover, and a teenage girl is secretly pregnant, at least for a while.

In all the swirling currents of *Sisters*, with the Quebec French translated into Canadian English by John Van Buren and Bill Glasco, there is a steady, alluring revelation of deceit. The moral judgments handed out at irregular intervals by most of the motherly characters are contrasted against their increasing thefts of the trading stamps they are passing in books for their supposed friend.

It is a world without hope, but not without humour, and Spencer Butler's production has the benefit of superb casting, with a company delivering amateur performances that have all the passion and wit of fine professional ensemble playing. His design is another matter, a terrifying raked platform which only once has the effect of turning the company into a chorus of singing housewives and spinsters.

As a British premiere, it could hardly make a better case for the play, with its monologues, some apt music provided by Michael Carver, sharp dialogue, argument and insight, and the dynamic tension of intelligent performance.

Ned Chaillet

Interview: Roland Rees

Coming in from the fringe

After ten years Foco Novo is no longer on the fringe. It has become an established theatre touring company, lacking perhaps the subversive edge of its early days but still turning on the socialism twice a year. Its history — and that of Roland Rees, its artistic director — represents a case study of changing theatrical fashion.

The tenth birthday is to be celebrated by Foco's production of Brecht's *Edward II* at the Round House, starting this evening. The production has been picking up good notices in a press tour to Mold, Croydon and Basildon, all theatres on the "medium scale" circuit into which the Arts Council has slotted the company. Rees, aged 41, and a graduate of the University of Wales, fits neatly into his own character study of the typical late-Sixties fringe community membership. To qualify it is advisable to have been born during the war, benefited from the 1944 Education Act, attended a non-Oxbridge university and helped hoist aloft the banner of socialism and art in the palmy days of 1968. Rees's baptism occurred in New York when, struck by the irrelevance of being a Welshman pursuing research into the life of the American black leader Marcus Garvey, he became involved with off-off-Broadway.

"About 70 per cent of the people in that world were just waiting for their break to get on Broadway. The other 30 per cent were there because that was where they wanted to work. I counted myself among the 30 per cent."



"I think I could bring something fresh to other repertoires..."

Mature. It was fringe all the time. Foco Novo was formed in 1972 to stage the play of the same name by Bernard Pomerance, who was later to become known as the author of *The Elephant Man*. Pomerance raised the money for the production and the company kept one eye on the Arts Council in the hope — though in those expansionary days it was more like the expectation — of a subsidy. The performance in a Gospel Oak garage did the trick and the revenue subsidy duly materialized. It continues to this day.

"We formed Foco Novo to produce plays with social and

political content. At that time the fringe was split down the middle. There was the documentary realist type of play which dramatized, for example, industrial disputes, and there was the purely theatrical end. I wanted to bring the two together. But the merger has not come about. Within Foco the battle between the two sides continues. There are documentaries such as *The Nine Days of Saitley Gates* by John Charistik and John Heyland and classics including Büchner's *Woyzeck*.

"It was a conflict within Brecht himself, so it's appropriate we have now come back to an early Brecht for our tenth birthday. I have moved away from documentary realism myself, but the quarrel remains and it's always been reflected in our programme."

When Foco began operations the big subsidized companies stood apart. Now the Royal Shakespeare Company has its Warehouse and the Other Place and the Royal Court feels a little threatened. Everybody has now moved into the fringe market, fighting for roughly the same, smallish audience. That Foco has survived at all in this context is largely because of Rees.

"I suppose it's because I have always put my work higher than owning a house or a flat. I'm still only paid just under £5,500. I couldn't have kept this up with a mortgage. We're not fringe any more, although the theatre establishment certainly don't regard us as one of their members. The penalty is that it's assumed that I can only direct one type of play, but I think I could bring something fresh to other corners of the repertoire. Shakespeare perhaps."

Bryan Appleyard

London debuts

Beauty under cruel pressure

In Hindemith's *Viola Sonata*, Op 11 No 4, Jan. Latham-Koenig was often too loud in the keyboard part; *fortissimos* were absurdly exaggerated, and it was sometimes impossible to hear Garth Knox, whose debut recital it was. Henze's *Viola Sonata* had been given its UK premiere by these players as part of a 1980 concert by the Latham-Koenig Ensemble. That performance was superior, although this one was an improvement on the Hindemith if only because the pianist had fewer opportunities for loud playing, though it was still difficult to hear Mr Knox at some points.

Peter Maxwell Davies's *The Door of the Sun* for unac-

companied viola was frankly a relief, and showed, as had only been glimpsed until now, that Mr Knox has a beautiful, resonant tone and a large, flexible technique. In Shostakovich's long, gloomy *Sonata*, Op 147, the last work he completed, the pianist was generally more restrained. Mr Knox played with superb vividness and immediacy, and the protracted finale's insistent allusions to Beethoven's *Moonlight Sonata* were handled with tact.

Any music by Debussy is of interest, but "Musique" which was given its British premiere by Rosemary Landry, is a decidedly pale trifle. A setting of Paul Bourget dating from 1883, it is weaker

than his other songs on texts by this poet, "Romance" and "Paysage sentimental", that belong to the same year. The former, which includes faint and distant anticipations of Méliandre's phrases, was also performed, and both items were sung in an aptly passive manner.

In fact the whole Debussy group was quite good, for, although Miss Landry's soprano voice is without much colour, it suited the wan, moonstruck landscapes evoked — particularly, of course, by Mallarmé's "Apparition". Settings of Ronsard by Laguerney were undistinctive but again lay conveniently for her voice and she produced a beautiful sound.

Further Ronsard songs by Roussel, for voice and flute, required a more positive manner, yet were fairly successful; and Robert Bick proved himself a suave flautist. Miss Landry is best in quiet, private, small-scale music where the voice is not under much pressure, and Poulenc's charmingly whimsical *Cinq Poèmes de Max Jacob* were more firmly characterized than an earlier Berlioz group that was beyond her grasp. At the piano Dalton Baldwin was not altogether his usual immaculate self.

Max Harrison

NT to visit Mexico

Mexico's tenth Cervantes Festival of theatre, music and dance opens on April 23. It is reckoned to have the scope and size of the Edinburgh Festival and this year performances will take place not only in Guanajuato, where the festival started, but elsewhere in the country, including Mexico City itself.

Britain will be represented by the National Theatre. Other visitors include Leonard Bernstein and the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, the Boston Ballet with Rudolf Nureyev, and the Rustaveli

Theatre of Russia. There will be recitals by Plácido Domingo, Claudio Arrau and Vladimir Ashkenazy.

The International Belvedere competition for opera singers, organised by the Wiener Kammeroper, will be held in Vienna from July 17 to 22. The jury will be composed of a number of opera house and festival directors, including Sir John Tooley, Brian Dickie and John Drummond from Britain. The age limit for competitors is 35.

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How to deal with Moscow in a nuclear age

Richard Nixon came into office with the well-deserved reputation of a lifetime of anti-communism. He despised liberal intellectuals who blamed the Cold War on the United States and who seemed to believe the Soviet system might be transformed through the strenuous exercise of goodwill. Nixon profoundly distrusted Soviet motives; he was a firm believer in negotiations from positions of strength; he was, in short, the classic Cold Warrior.

Yet after four tumultuous years in office, it was this man, so unlike the conventional intellectual's notion of a peace-maker, who paradoxically was negotiating with the Soviets on the broadest agenda of East-West relations in 25 years. And not long afterwards he found himself accused of what had been a staple of his own early campaign rhetoric: of being "soft on communism."

The paradox was more apparent than real. We did not consider a relaxation of tensions a concession to the Soviets. We had our own reasons for it. We were not abandoning the ideological struggle, but simply trying to bring it to a more realistic level. The United States and the Soviet Union are ideological rivals. Detente cannot change that. The nuclear age compels us to coexist. Rhetorical crusades cannot change that, either.

Our age must learn the lessons of the Second World War, brought about when the democracies failed to understand the designs of a totalitarian aggressor, sought foolishly to appease him, and permitted him to achieve a military superiority. This must never happen again, whatever the burdens of an adequate defence. But we must remember as well the lesson of the First World War, when Europe, despite the existence of a military balance, drifted into a war no one wanted and a catastrophe that no one could have imagined. Military planning drove decisions; bluster and posturing drove diplomacy.

An American President has a dual responsibility: to resist Soviet expansionism and to be must be conscious of the profound risks of global confrontation. His policy must embrace both deterrence and coexistence, both containment and coexistence. The desire for peace turns into an avoidance of conflict at all costs, if the just disparage power and seek refuge in their moral purity, the world's fear of war becomes a weapon of blackmail by the strong; peaceful nations, large or small, will be at the mercy of the most ruthless. Yet if we pursue the ideological conflict divorced from strategy, if confrontation turns into an end in itself, we will lose the cohesion of our alliances and ultimately the confidence of



All eyes on the man in the middle: the Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev and President Richard Nixon with Dr Kissinger, then Secretary of State (back to camera) at San Clemente in June, 1973

were convinced there was no other choice. Any American President soon learns that he has a narrow margin for manoeuvre. The United States and the Soviet Union are ideological rivals. Detente cannot change that. The nuclear age compels us to coexist. Rhetorical crusades cannot change that, either.

Our age must learn the lessons of the Second World War, brought about when the democracies failed to understand the designs of a totalitarian aggressor, sought foolishly to appease him, and permitted him to achieve a military superiority. This must never happen again, whatever the burdens of an adequate defence. But we must remember as well the lesson of the First World War, when Europe, despite the existence of a military balance, drifted into a war no one wanted and a catastrophe that no one could have imagined. Military planning drove decisions; bluster and posturing drove diplomacy.

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our people. That was what the Nixon Administration understood by detente. How to avoid nuclear war without succumbing to nuclear blackmail, how to prevent the desire for peace from turning into appeasement; how to defend liberty and maintain the peace — this is the overwhelming problem of our age. The trouble — no, the tragedy — is that the dual concept of containment and coexistence, of maintaining the balance of power while exploring a more positive future, has no automatic consensus behind it. Historically, America imagined that it did not have to concern itself with the global equilibrium because geography and a surplus of power enabled it to await events in isolation.

Two schools of thought developed. The liberal approach treated foreign policy as a subdivision of psychology; the conservative approach considered it an aspect of theology. Liberals equated relations among states with human relations. They emphasized the virtues of trust and unilateral gestures of goodwill. Conservatives saw in foreign policy a version of the eternal struggle of good with evil, a conflict that recognized no middle ground and could end only with victory. Detente, an upsurge in liberal ideology and its emotional evocation of peace in the abstract; coexistence, a return to the liturgical anti-communism of the right. American idealism drove both groups to challenge us from different directions. The mainstream of liberalism found anything connected with the balance of power repugnant.

Through the early part of the twentieth century the United States thought of itself as standing above the fray. The Soviet postwar leaders, Brezhnev sees the US at once as rival, mortal threat, model, source of assistance and partner in physical survival. These conflicting impulses make the motivations of Brezhnev's policy toward us ambivalent. On the one hand, he no doubt wants to go down in history as the leader who brought peace and a better life to Russia. This requires conciliatory and cooperative policies toward us. Yet, he remains a convinced communist who sees politics as a struggle with an ultimate winner; he intends the Soviet Union to be that winner. His recurrent efforts to draw us into condominium-type arrangements — most notably his

proposal for a nuclear non-aggression pact — are intended both to safeguard peace and to undermine our alliances and other associations. Almost certainly, Brezhnev continues to defend his detente policies in Politburo debates in terms of a historic conflict with us as the main capitalist country and of the ultimate advantages that will accrue to the USSR in this conflict. Brezhnev's gamble is that as these policies gather momentum and longevity, their effects will not undermine the very system from which Brezhnev draws his power and legitimacy. Our goal on the other hand is to achieve precisely such effects over the long run.

The major, long term question is whether the Soviets can hold their own block together while waiting for the West to succumb to a long period of relaxation and to the temptations of economic competition. Certainly, our chances are as good as Brezhnev's, given the history of dissent in East Europe. In short, I rejected the proposition of our critics that the Soviet Union stands to benefit more from peace than from war. It is a counsel of despair, the opposite of what I believe to be reality. It shows an unwarranted historical pessimism, a serious lack of faith in the American people. Nixon would have no part of it. In his famous 1959 "Kitchen Debate" in Moscow he scoffed at Khrushchev's boast that he would bury us — and Nixon was right. Nothing has changed in the intervening two decades to suggest that the communist system is glaringly weaker in its ideological appeal, its resources and organization, can outstrip the West in prolonged competition. If the Soviet Union overtake the West in military power, this will be caused not by detente but by the failure of the democracies to do what is clearly necessary.

If the West saw to containment, I am convinced that it would win its historical bet. The Soviet Union's economic system is glaringly weaker in its ideological appeal, its resources and organization, can outstrip the West in prolonged competition. If the Soviet Union overtake the West in military power, this will be caused not by detente but by the failure of the democracies to do what is clearly necessary.

In every communist state — it is almost an historic joke — the ultimate crisis, latent if not evident, is over the role of the Communist Party. In Poland, the party was almost swept away because it was irrelevant and impotent. And we are still only at the beginning of that process of transformation. If Moscow is prevented by a firm western policy from deflecting its internal tensions into international crises, it is likely to find only disillusionment in the boast that history is on its side. I remain convinced that a long period of peace will favour the pluralism of a democratic system — the economic vitality, genius for technological innovation, and creativity of free peoples.

I believe that a normal Nixon Presidency would have managed to attain symmetry between the twin pillars of containment and coexistence. Nixon would have been able to demonstrate to the conservatives that detente was a means to conduct the ideological contest, not a resignation from it. And he could have handled the liberal pressures by rallying a majority of moderates behind his policy of settling concrete issues. He could then have used his demonstrated commitment to peace to marshal the free peoples of the alliance behind a new approach to detente.

But early in his second term Nixon was no longer a normal President. We will never know what might have been possible had America not consumed its authority in the melancholy period. Congressional assaults on a weakened President robbed him of both the means of containment and the incentives for Soviet moderation, rendering resistance impotent and at the same time driving us toward confrontation without a strategy or the means to back it up.

In time the Soviets could not resist the opportunity presented by a weakened President and a divided America abdicating from foreign responsibilities. By 1975 Soviet adventurism had returned, reinforced by an unprecedented panoply of modern arms. Partly as a result of our domestic weakness and Soviet power, for many of our allies detente became what conservatives had feared: an escape from the realities of the balance of power, a substitution of atmospherics for substance.

The Sunday Times serialization from the Kissinger memoirs continues this week with Crisis Day for the World.

© Henry A. Kissinger, 1982

The new Oxford snobbery

by Harry Judge

Last week it was revealed in *The Times* that Wadham College, Oxford, had "sold" places to two Hongkong students for £500,000. As always, there are complications and explanations: overseas students do not count against the house quota, so no British 18-year-olds will be deprived of places.

Even so, the old prejudice — that Oxford is for the rich — will now be strengthened. Unfortunately that is not the only prejudice against which right-minded people now have to fight. Let me give an example. I met a Director of Education, a man with a great deal of influence over the lives and futures of pupils in many secondary schools. One of these pupils was coming to Oxford.

This is what I must call the new prejudice. Its tangled roots lie in a complex of damp ideology and sour grapes, and it is every bit as bad as the old prejudice. The robust old version was that Oxford favoured privilege, family wealth and the old school tie. And so, most of the time and until just recently, it did.

The gift of admission lay in a small number of plump hands, often those of the head of a college. Links with particular schools and skill in many sports were assisted by cultivated admission arrangements, for system there was none, were of byzantine complexity. Closed scholarships protected the status quo. Oxford men as schoolmasters sent up packets of boys to become Oxford men while the women fought their way in to become a talented minority carefully excluded from ancient buildings and (more important) accumulated wealth. Clever grammar school boys, never from very many schools, were quietly co-opted — to the advantage of the university and of themselves.

All that has now been stood upon its head. Entry to Oxford is by a competitive examination, taken either before or after A levels. A price has doubtless been paid, but the meritocracy has triumphed. Closed scholarships have been eliminated. Dons prowl the countryside like medieval friars searching for brains while sixth-formers from comprehensive schools are recruited on a large scale and reassured of the accessibility and normality of the place.

All this represents the greatest social change that the university has accomplished in any comparable period throughout the 700 years of its existence.

Nor is it possible to maintain (although many ungenerously try) that all this has been achieved only by a dropping of standards. On the contrary, if we take as a rough but fair measure, the number of new undergraduates achieving very good A level results (A-B-B or even better) then the picture is cheerful. In 1980, 73.5 per cent achieved this standard — a quarter more than 10 years ago and three times as many when compared with the group entering all British universities.

For the first time, non-public school entrants compose a majority of the new cohort. It could still be argued that this is still not good enough. Those who think it a thoroughly bad thing should declare themselves openly. They appear to believe that we should have no internationally pre-eminent universities, that hierarchies and excellence are in principle wrong. I think they are mistaken. But, even if they were right, the system would last for this century.

Meanwhile, if the cryopragmatists have their way, many able young people from simpler homes will be automatically diverted from Oxford, their life chances will be significantly reduced and society as well as the individuals concerned will suffer.

The second argument, which I would be disposed to accept, is that "half is not good enough". After all, the aggressors cry, only a percentage of the population at the age of 13 is in private schools, so why should they collect half the Oxford places? That 5 per cent is, however, a misleading figure, and more relevant would be the proportion going on to level 3. Here, the proportion is over 20 per cent and this is comfortably close to the share claimed by public school pupils in the entry to all universities. The critics convincingly argue that more comprehensive school pupils should come to Oxford.

The armageddon ready-to-wear collection

A lightweight reflective suit to protect against the worst effects of nuclear, chemical or biological warfare should soon be available by mail order from Kelco Enterprises, a British firm specializing in survival and defence, is considering this as part of its new policy to cater for civilian as well as military customers.

For as little as £20 apiece families will be able to buy silver suits which guard against potentially deadly chemicals such as hydrogen cyanide. The necessary accessories, including rubber boots, gloves and respirators, will cost a few pounds more. Dehydrated emergency food packs are also available and should you be unlucky enough to be injured during armageddon a surgical survival kit is ready for running repairs until any ambulance arrives.

For the most serious casualty, heavy gauge, opaque PVC body bags can be used to evacuate the patient to safety. In the event of death a clear plastic flap is zipped over the face so that the body can be identified easily. Wares from this reassuring catalogue were displayed in London yesterday.

Northern epic

That old rhapsode is at it again. At 6.24 am tomorrow, soon after a rosy-fingered dawn has poked a chilled finger out of the North Sea, a thin, spectacled,

angular man will start intoning Homer's *Odyssey* in Greek in the Quadrangle of Newcastle University, in an unmistakably Scottish accent, and with panache. David West, Professor of Latin, to it will be, is kicking off a complete reading of all 24 books by staff and students of the department of classics to raise money for charity. Accents will range from Geordie Why aye, through finest Sidney Allen Vox Græca, to Best Old Aberdeen Shag Heather Mix. Rhapsodic dress, including rhabdos, the rhapsode's staff, will be worn.

Scholarly debate still rages in the department about whether to end the reading at Book 23 line 296, where Aristarchus and Aristophanes claimed the *Odyssey* ended, with Odysseus and Penelope in bed together. The long day's reading should end at about 10.30 pm. The admirable West will be present all day. He says: "Why should a man be anywhere else than where they are reading the *Odyssey*?"

Saucy!

Michael Harris, proprietor of the Ball at Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire, has abandoned his fight with Christopher Driver, editor of the *Good Food Guide*. In 1973 Harris, whose establishment tolled consistently in the *Guide* through its first quarter century, was one of a brigade of top kitchen-keepers who declared in a letter to *The Times* that they were fed up with Driver's "prevailing tone of acid disparagement and snide innuendo." Thereafter Harris refused to send

details of prices or anything else to the *Good Food Guide* or any other guide published by the Consumers' Association. It did him no good. His wine subsidiary, Gerard Harris, got a full clutch of accolades in the *Which? Wine Guide*. The Ball still featured in the *Good Food Guide*, and last year it was reinstated in the *Good Food Guide*, complete with an appropriately snide suggestion that the origin of some of the sauces could be explained only by a scrutiny of the kitchen shelves.

This year Harris has provided all the details requested by the Consumers' Association. What caustic sneers this surrender may engender only publication of Driver's book on March 19 will tell.

No doubt it had to happen, but they might have got it right when it did. As it is, the promotion, Harrods are putting on a tasting of Mumm champagne, but announcing it, they spelt it Mumm.

Women first

Olga Franklin, journalistic trapper and Sovietologist, will be lecturing in Tunbridge Wells tonight on women in Fleet Street. Their history there is longer and more honourable than even our latest column correspondent, Jill Tweedie of *The Guardian*, might claim.

Franklin says one could go back to Virginia Woolf on *The Times Literary Supplement*, and recall Rebecca West, Winifred Holby, Storm Jameson and Stella Gibbons. Her own account, though, will begin with Eileen Ascroft launching in 1935 the first agony column in the *Daily Mirror*.

A colourful episode will be her description of the first all-woman assignment to the ruins of Berlin in 1946, when Fleet Street's women horrified the officers of the British Army. Franklin's task was to seek out Frau Goering and ask her: "Will Hermann hang?" Franklin says now: "The more this feminism thing has emerged,

the less important women's journalism has become. The only good woman writer today is Caroline Moorehead of *The Times*."

John Batchelor, whose *Edwardian Novelists* is published tomorrow, has a nice story about Joseph Conrad. He hated paying income tax, and when an official-looking envelope arrived he left it unopened for several weeks assuming that it was just another demand. In fact it contained the offer of a knighthood, and eventually the Prime Minister, Ramsey MacDonald, had to send a personal messenger to find out what had happened to it.

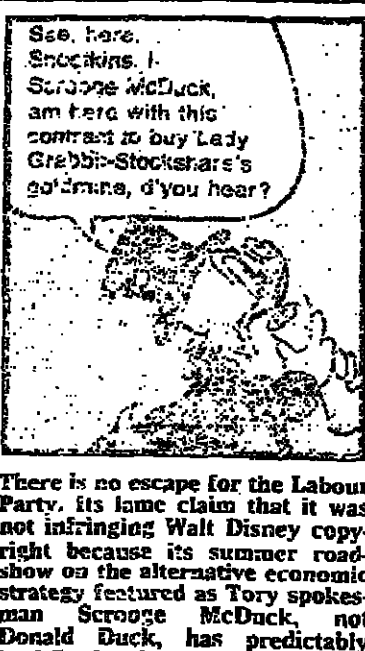
In the event it did not matter, because Conrad refused the knighthood anyway, regarding it as a plebeian kind of honour compared with the half dozen titles he had abandoned on leaving Poland.

Title tattle

There is no escape for the Labour Party, its lame claim that it was not infringing Walt Disney copyright because its summer road-show on the alternative economic strategy featured as Tory spokesman Scrooge McDuck, not Donald Duck, has predictably backfired. As my illustration shows, Scrooge McDuck is a well-established Disney copyright character too. There is no alternative. Labour's economic strategy programme must be scrapped.

Tomorrow it will be 300 years since the assassination of the opera composer Alessandro Stradella. Italian police have still not managed to bring charges. There is no doubt in anyone's mind that Stradella was stabbed to death in Genoa on February 25, 1632, but investigations have been confused by the large number of suspects raised by his amorous lifestyle.

The first theory, propounded by the French writer, Stendhal, among others, is that he was murdered by a Venetian nobleman with whose fiancée he had



Genoese nobility after seducing one of their women. While the carabinieri scratch their heads for three centuries, no fewer than four composers have written operas about their colleague's sad fate.

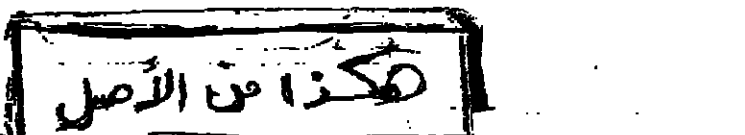
A "free radio" station in Paris has invited listeners with the sounds of a couple supposedly making love on the studio floor, while a disc jockey supplies a running commentary.

Pass the word

It is plainly too much to ask people who are good with words to be capable of ordering their affairs properly as well. Jeremy Geelan, who edits *Logophilia*, a quarterly devoted to words, has been returning the journal's mail to senders, marked "gone away".

The Post Office was doing that for the perfectly good reason that Geelan had failed to renew a forwarding arrangement. The result is that while he has collected from contributors some lovely lists of favourite words (e.g. pellicled, aquiline, lily, silken, brandy, paragon, alembic, ocean, notary, perish — B. Levin), he has received no replies at all to a modest advertising campaign intended to attract subscribers who would appreciate them.

We wordy types must stick together, so let me tell you that *Logophilia* has changed, but once more operational, address is 47-49, Caledonian Road, London N1 3BU.



See, here. Shocking! Scrooge McDuck, am I right with this contrast to Lady Grabble-Stocks's go-around, d'you hear?

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PORTRAIT OF A PARTY MAN

There are two ways of looking at Mr. Mieczyslaw Rakowski, the Polish Deputy Premier, whose remarkable interview with Oriana Fallaci we published on Monday and Tuesday. On the one hand he is a member of a ruling party which is generally unpopular, which has no electoral legitimacy and which, by last December, had become, as he himself frankly admits "bankrupt, intellectually and politically". He has remained in his job to serve a military regime which has detained thousands of people, suspended trade union activity and other civil rights. And he speaks as a true Marxist when he utters the chilling remark that "in politics the individual does not count". Seen in this light his interview is little more than an attempt to win western approval for military rule.

On the other hand, Mr. Rakowski has been known for twenty-five years as a restless critic of the system in which he has made his career. He has been deeply disliked by orthodox members of the apparatus and widely respected as editor of the weekly paper *Polityka*. Although he has survived through many changes, which means that he has made compromises, his credentials as a proponent of the need to liberalise the Communist system are good. He rose during the reformist period of 1956 and was then disappointed. He attached himself to Mr. Gierk, who came to power in 1970 with reformism on his lips, and was again disappointed. He saw the formation of Solidarity as offering a new chance to introduce checks and balances into the system and build links between the party and the people. When he

was made government negotiator with Solidarity he seized the opportunity and seemed initially to be negotiating in good faith, but then accused Solidarity of unrealistic demands. Yet another disappointment.

Seen from this point of view Mr. Rakowski is in the position of any politician in any party or government of which he is critical. How far does he go along with it in the hope of influencing it from within? At what point does compromise become a betrayal of principles? The answer is never easy but in eastern Europe there is a factor that is missing in the west. There is no other party to go to, and the rule of that one party is regarded by Moscow as a vital interest. Therefore, unless one believes that Soviet policy can be changed, the system is hopeless. It may often be morally right but defeat is inevitable.

Westerners with no experience of such limitations should therefore hesitate before passing quick judgments. But this leaves two big questions unanswered. First, what is Mr. Rakowski telling the truth? Here again, a certain humility is required. We simply do not know. A very logical case can be made for the argument that the regime decided long before December to block Solidarity's demands in order to provoke the radicals and provide an excuse for military intervention. But the failure of the regime to come to terms with Solidarity can just as well be attributed to indecision and incompetence. Mr. Rakowski is right that there were some unrealistic hotheads in

Solidarity but wrong to put so much of the blame on them, and wrong not to mention that the "general strike" called for December was to have been a very short warning strike. The rest must await more information.

The second question is whether the sort of limited reforms envisaged by Mr. Rakowski are actually possible. Every time they have been tried in Eastern Europe, they have been defeated by the Party apparatus, or the Russians, or a combination of both. Mr. Rakowski scoffs at freedom — freedom which does not put anything in hungry people's stomachs he says derisively. But it is the antique collectivist economics of the East which have made Poland an impoverished and starving debtor of the West and which leaves the Soviet Union dependent on American grain and Western technology.

The individual counts in economics all right; and politics without a belief in the essential worth of every human being, minorities of one as well as majorities of millions, is corrupting. Inevitably it becomes about power rather than about responsibility, coercion rather than consent, numbers rather than people. Christianity gave that ideal to the world. Statecraft has had to wrestle, and always will, with the balance between liberty and order. The reconciliation is imperfect and so is the realization of the ideal, but freedom has been the pulse of every civilised achievement in the West. Mr. Rakowski should ponder another question following the battery he has answered; what has its Marxist antithesis produced in the East?

IN SICKNESS AND IN WEALTH

About six million people a year visit Britain from countries with which we have no reciprocal arrangement for free medical care. Some come on purpose to seek treatment for existing conditions. They are expected to seek it privately, they bring in substantial foreign exchange earnings, and immigration officials have a duty to satisfy themselves that they can afford to pay. Others fall ill unexpectedly while they are here, and these have traditionally been treated free in hospital as NHS patients, even though they have paid nothing towards the costs of the service through their taxes, as British residents do.

This minor item of international largesse was characteristic of the spirit in which the service was founded. It was considered petty to harass visitors in a moment of misfortune, and the sums involved were small in relation to NHS spending as a whole. This amiable attitude to entitlement may seem more questionable today, when we are more aware of the inevitable gap between supply and demand in a free service paid for out of tax.

Exactly what change of practice is proposed remains less than clear. This makes comment difficult, because it is not clear that the change is worthwhile in terms of cost, and that it has no unacceptable side-effects. The old spirit of the NHS still has

enough credit in Britain for it to be said with certainty that among side-effects unacceptable to the public would be the spectacle of patients in acute need of treatment being refused it because of inability to pay, or subjected to delay while inquiries are made about status or funds. Our national circumstances may be reduced, but not to the point where we need require anybody to haggle from a stretcher at the hospital door. Equally, it is not acceptable that the process for assessing entitlement should make immigrant residents reluctant to seek medical care because of fears of inquisitions about their right to be here.

Mr. Fowler's proposals take fuller account of these difficulties than the scheme outlined by a working party last year. Visitors would become exempt from charges after a residence of one year instead of three. People coming here to work, and some visiting dependents, would be exempt from the start. It is stressed that there would be no question of refusal of treatment to patients in acute need, nor systematic discrimination by colour. A simple prescribed set of questions would be put to every patient on admission, and there is some force in the claim that this might occasionally reduce rather than increase the risk of offensive interrogation of foreign residents, and might

remind hospitals to take greater care to see that visitors do not receive free treatment when they have no ghost of a claim to it.

But as an effective money-saver, the plan does not look impressive. Without explaining how Mr. Fowler proposes to save £6m a year when the working party only predicted £5m from a much larger category. The thing is as vague as that. It is not clear what will happen if a patient blatantly lies about his status on admission. Either evasion will be temptingly easy, or else the threat of future inquiries will raise administrative costs and deter resident immigrants. The expense of reclaiming bad debts is a significant part of the costs of many foreign hospitals. Nor is there a clear medical borderline between emergencies where any humane surgeon would cut first and ask questions afterwards, and less urgent but still painful conditions carrying a risk of complications if not promptly treated. The change is likely in itself to create an atmosphere where the possibility of charging is more aggressively pursued, generating suspicion and ill-will. It is hard to look at the prediction of £6m without scepticism, but even if that saving were made in full it would be a trivial return for a petty act of inhospitality in a service whose budget is counted in thousands of millions.

Those of us who support proportional representation in one form or another do so not just to gain parity of seats to votes, but to put political power back into Parliament, where it belongs, instead of in the press. The game has served us ill for the past three decades and we want an end to it.

D. J. C. LAMING,
Trehayes,
Crabb Lane,
Aldington,
Exeter,
Devon.
February 20.

HORROR IN EAST TIMOR

When Indonesian troops invaded East Timor in December 1975 it was quite obvious that no one was going to stop them. Fretilin (the Revolutionary Front for the Independence of East Timor), which at that moment was in de facto control of the country, was certainly not strong enough. Portugal, the colonial power which had not and still has not formally renounced sovereignty, no longer had any authority on the ground or any troops capable of taking action anywhere near.

The nearest neighbouring country, Australia, had publicly all but promised Indonesia a free hand. Western powers generally, in common with the members of the Association of South-East Asian states, were anxious to keep good terms with Indonesia as a major oil-producer, a rapidly expanding market, and a regional power opposed to communism.

Not much has been heard about East Timor in this country since then, but the crime has continued to trouble consciences both in Portugal and in Australia. President Suharto officially proclaimed the incorporation of East Timor into Indonesia in 1976, and this was recognized by Australia in 1978, as well as by the ASEAN states. But Portugal continues to

claim sovereignty on the grounds that the East Timorese have not yet been able to exercise their right of self-determination, and the United Nations has consistently called for the withdrawal of Indonesian forces.

More important, it seems that all is far from well in East Timor itself. A pamphlet published yesterday by the Catholic Institute for International Relations states that Indonesian control is "still not unchallenged". It is "clear that resistance continues, and in 1981-1982 the Indonesian army was carrying out large-scale sweeps in the Lautem region, in the east of the territory". It is estimated, horrifyingly, that since the invasion more than 100,000 people have died, either directly as a result of military operations or from consequent famine and disease, out of a population of only about 670,000.

Two documents seem particularly damning for the Indonesian authorities. One is a report sent to President Suharto in June last year by the "Regional People's Representative Assembly" appointed by the Indonesians themselves. This report, while expressing undying gratitude for the incorporation of East Timor into Indonesia, suggests that that objective is being jeopardized by the

behaviour of Indonesian troops and officials which "can only be described as being the behaviour of conquerors towards a conquered people". It cites instances of murder, torture, and other forms of violence and abuse.

The other document is a letter from the leader of the Roman Catholic Church in East Timor to the Chairman of Australian Catholic Relief, dated last November, which refers to expected famine and to the killing of many Timorese people, including children and pregnant women, by Indonesian forces in the military operation of July, August and September 1981.

If this was the situation after six years it is no longer tenable to argue that the Indonesian fait accompli has to be accepted in the interests of peace and stability. Indonesia has obviously not won over the hearts and minds of the East Timorese, and her very unwillingness to allow independent observers access to the territory corroborates that. A solution based on negotiations and the free choice of the inhabitants is urgently needed and the international community particularly those countries which have close economic and military ties with Indonesia, including Britain, should make a much more serious effort to achieve one.

TV channels by satellite

From Lord Agglestone

Sir, It took over 20 years of debate before Parliament decided to authorize a fourth television channel in this country. Recent reports in your columns and elsewhere indicate that decisions are about to be taken which would, without any public debate, give the use of two new national television channels on a British direct broadcasting satellite to the BBC.

The potential importance to British industry of an early involvement in this new area of space technology is recognized as immense. The question of how the broadcast channels on such a satellite should be allocated is, however, one which I suggest, requires further public debate, together with the question of the most appropriate system of public control of programme standards.

The BBC is on record as saying that it would like to operate two satellite channels: one for a service of repeats and the other for a subscription service. The latter is a form of financing for broadcasting so far removed from the public service which would involve a degree of risk which the BBC, in its present circumstances and given its overriding responsibility to the licence-payer, would not seem best placed to take.

Moreover, even the corporation's best friends sometimes believe that the organization is quite large enough for its own good and for the interests of the public. The potential for abuse of the public service by self-financing public-service broadcasting ought certainly to be explored and debated.

Decisions taken now will affect the shape of broadcasting well into the nineties, when viewers will have considerably wider choice not only of broadcast services but also cable services and video cassettes and discs. These decisions ought not to be taken lightly or without a great deal of discussion.

Yours faithfully,
AYLESTONE,
House of Lords,
February 22.

Voting intentions

From Dr D. J. C. Laming

Sir, It is a matter of surprise that so experienced an observer as Geoffrey Smith, in an otherwise perceptive article on the subject (February 20), can misjudge the nature of the electorate's wishes. When he says "the electorate has favoured single-party administrations with secure parliamentary majorities" he treats us, the poor electors, to a rather odd piece of collective intelligence that decides to elect a specific type of administration. Does he not realize that we do not go into a huddle before polling day, but that the outcome of a general election is the result of our individual choices, taken in secret?

Most electors, when they vote, think they are choosing an MP and a government; and it is the balance of the millions of such choices that goes towards deciding what our government shall be. Ten million vote one way, nine million another, five million a third — where in all that is the electorate's choice of a single strong government? Interpreted literally, such a vote means if that is the more nor less; though no voter has voted for it, or indeed is able to. It is the electoral system that hitherto distorted the voters' choices into "strong" single-party government.

Those of us who support proportional representation in one form or another do so not just to gain parity of seats to votes, but to put political power back into Parliament, where it belongs, instead of in the press. The game has served us ill for the past three decades and we want an end to it.

D. J. C. LAMING,
Trehayes,
Crabb Lane,
Aldington,
Exeter,
Devon.
February 20.

The captains' table

From Mr T. C. F. Prittie

Sir, I learn from your columns today (February 17) that Norman Featherstone (Zimbabwe/Rhodesia) will not be captaining the Glamorgan cricket team this season and his place may be taken by Javed Miandad (Pakistan).

Worcestershire are being captained by Turner (New Zealand), Nottinghamshire by Rice (South Africa), Gloucestershire (up to last season) by Procter (Zimbabwe/Rhodesia), Kent by Asif (Pakistan), Leicestershire by Davison (Zimbabwe/Rhodesia), Lancashire by Lloyd (West Indies). I suggest that this is a ludicrous situation, with nearly half the English first-class counties captained by men who are not qualified to play for England.

Cricketers from overseas add lustre to the first-class cricket field in this country, but it should be axiomatic that only cricketers qualified to play for England should captain county sides and be given the experience needed to make them candidates to captain England. This is neither racism nor chauvinism, but strict common sense.

Yours faithfully,
TERENCE PRITTEE,
9 Blenheim Road, W8.
February 17.

Mrs Shirley Williams is the SDP MP for Crosby, not Warrington, as stated yesterday.

Preserving single Community market

From Mr Richard Cottrell, MEP for Bristol (Conservative)

Sir, The European Community is alarmed at every level at the threat to its survival posed by the retreat into nationalism and protectionism among the member states. The proposed "walling off" of the French internal market is notable in this respect. So is the last-ditch battle being fought by car manufacturers throughout the Community to prevent the principles of free trade enshrined in the Treaty of Rome operating effectively, to the detriment of the British consumer.

But, as a nation, we are hardly free of guilt in this increasingly serious situation. We are also victims of our own brand of double-think. Not so very long ago we had a glorious fight to sell British lamb to the French housewife. It was a campaign that I and my colleagues in the European Parliament supported wholeheartedly. Yet if we equally defend — and some of us do — the right of the French to sell their apples, turkeys, eggs, poultry and milk in the United Kingdom on the same principles of free trade, then we are liable to be accused of deserting the national interest.

Whose national interest? The future of the United Kingdom cannot depend upon sheltering behind tariff or import barriers of one kind or another. The Labour Party are so disastrously wrong in their own attitudes to the Community. Yet I become increasingly alarmed at the rigour with which import barriers of one kind or another are either erected or maintained in order to defend a vested interest within the United Kingdom.

Continental milk and supplies of poultry and eggs from most EEC countries (together with the USA) are currently excluded from Britain with the aid of health controls which are at best specious. There are few obstacles to confirm that French people do not drink the milk from milk-buses but these controls do protect, on the one hand, a dairy industry which is dangerously monopolistic, and on the other, a poultry industry which already enjoyed virtual dominance — its own domestic market — but became petrified at the prospect of genuine consumer competition.

A matter of form

From Mr C. J. Hancock

Sir, Forgive my cynicism, but as a postwar recruit to the Treasury's O and M Division I recall two best sellers from the late forties: *Control of Forms* and *Control of Documents*, which contained all the wisdom now rehearsed in Lady Young's White Paper (report, February 18). We must look deeper therefore to discover why the bureaucratic jungle is denser now than when "scientific management" was first applied. I offer two suggestions.

1. Don't expect more management from top civil servants; your predecessors and many others have tried in vain. As you say they are preoccupied with "policy", but in addition they are trained from birth to protect the status quo. As a lifelong coolie, albeit a senior one in the end, my most cherished memory is of an annual report which condemned the Civil Service for its "policy", but in addition they are trained from birth to protect the status quo. As a lifelong coolie, albeit a senior one in the end, my most cherished memory is of an annual report which condemned the Civil Service for its "policy", but in addition they are trained from birth to protect the status quo.

2. As Aslef have demonstrated, productivity demands cooperation from the workforce. Junior civil servants are now strongly unionised, they are no longer brought up to serve in a vocational sense, and management must negotiate a deal with them. You cannot introduce new technology effectively, whether it be a streamlined form or an integrated micro-computer system, without staff participation.

Fuel subsidies

From Mr Andrew Warren

Sir, Responding to understandable concern about the proposed further substantial increases in domestic gas and electricity prices, you report the Prime Minister today (February 19) as stating that her Government is providing a larger amount of fuel subsidy than any previous Government. In toto, according to a written answer given earlier in the week, £250m per annum is spent on assisting the lower paid with their heating bills.

The money, substantial in anyone's terms, is paid to subsidize energy consumption. In contrast the Government have allocated just £20m this year to a drop in pound-note tests from two years ago, never mind inflation — towards their home insulation scheme, the only fiscal incentive to save energy offered domestic users.

Lead in petrol

From the Co-ordinator of the Maternity Alliance

Sir, We welcome the publication (report, February 8) of Sir Henry Yellowlees's letter on the risk to children from lead and the campaign for lead-free petrol.

However, we believe that both letters, while rightly exposing the dangers to children, fail to place the emphasis on that part of the human life cycle where lead does most damage. It would be expected that lead might do its greatest damage to the embryo and foetus, and a series of American research papers it has been reported that this is so in other mammals.

Indeed, if animals are exposed to lead before mating and through pregnancy their offspring are damaged by blood lead

We are now going to attack the French Government over the measures they propose to "re-conquer" the French market. Naturally, I approve. Equally, I want to see really effective action at last against destructive national aids for which the French are also notable. But I am convinced that the thrust of the attack will be weakened by the steps we ourselves have taken along the path of protectionism.

These issues lead across to the much wider problem of restrictions on trade between the European Community as a whole and the United States, trade war looms. The import restrictions which we have created with regard to American poultry are clearly not the substance of the dispute but given the traditional power of the farming lobby in Washington, it would be foolish to deny that they have played a part in souring the atmosphere between the Community and the United States.

My plea is for the restitution of tolerance before it is too late. The French are more likely to deny the French market for their own tariff walls if we set about dismantling some of our own. I will not deny that this will create some uncomfortable free trade in the market place, but there is no evidence whatsoever to suggest that protected or insulated industries thrive and flourish.

Britain's role at this time could be crucial. We have it in us to be the best Europeans of them all. I do not suggest for a moment that we tread especially lightly in such important areas as budget and farm policy reform, but our attitudes do need to be consistent.

A determination to protect what the President of the Commission, Mr. Thorn, described in Strasbourg last week as the Community's most precious asset — the single market — would be a mark of our firm intention to see this Community survive and prosper in a world which increasingly allows of little comfort elsewhere.

Yours, etc.
RICHARD COTTRELL,
Bristol Conservative Association,
5 Westfield Park,
Bristol.
February 19.

and support. There are more ways to sabotage a system than blowing it up.
What a pity the Government squandered millions on Pay Research Unit-backed pay settlements before it saw the light. It's a bit late now, but the only long-term answer is a bona-fide productivity programme, and sealed in such a way that even McCarthy could not undermine it.

Yours faithfully,
C. J. HANCOCK,
41 Rusper Road,
Hilfield, Sussex.
February 18.

From Mr Andrew Drysdale
Sir, We are obliged to Sir Derek Rayner for his attempt to cut the paper chain of the Civil Service command (report, February 18). We congratulate Lady Young on her efforts to simplify forms.

I would like to suggest to Lady Young that she invite Sir Keith Joseph to encourage schools to study Civil Service forms in their English Language courses. A question could be included in A and O level examination papers on how to improve and simplify forms.

Would Sir Keith Joseph offer a prize to the school that produced the most improved form? Would the CBI sponsor the prize? We will all gain from being rid of the burden of completing forms which are often unnecessary and usually unintelligible, but the CBI more than anybody.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW DRYSDALE,
Ferriers Grange, Hookwood,
near Horley, Surrey.

Nobody denies the necessity when fuel prices are so high to provide a cushion for those upon whom these costs bear disproportionately. But the allocation of only around one-tenth of this money to assist in reducing initial demand must be wrong. Here is surely a prime case for funding capital investment (in the form of conservation measures) in order to reduce current expenditure (in the form of fuel supplements).

Subsidising conservation leads to lasting benefits via more efficient equipment and consumption patterns and lowers long-term energy demands. Subsidising conservation, on the other hand, however socially desirable, in the long run just raises the demand for energy.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW WARREN, Director,
Association for the Conservation of Energy,
38 Gloucester Place, W1.

levels about five times lower than are necessary to produce measurable effects in young or adult animals. The damage reported includes: reduced rates of brain growth and development; impaired learning and visual discrimination; delayed onset of puberty and reproductive function; impaired kidney function and impaired resistance to disease.

Research under the European Community Environmental Research Programme has reported on the biochemical and other changes found in the leading end of embryos. There is growing evidence that many other chemicals are more dangerous to gamete, embryo and foetus than to adults or even children.

Yours faithfully,
RUTH EVANS, Co-ordinator,
The Maternity Alliance,
309 Kentish Town Road, NW5.

Open units for girl offenders

From Mrs Anne Weitzman and others

Sir, We were interested to read in *The Times* (report, February 19) that "Keep Out" has chosen Bullwood Hall, the closed borstal for girls, as the first target in its campaign. Having, in our capacity as magistrates, visited this penal establishment twice in the last three years, we are aware of the disadvantages of locking up difficult and disturbed young women in a depressing environment with limited staff and treatment resources.

Talking with some of the girls, we were sad but not surprised to hear that several, particularly those from the North and the Midlands, had not had a visit throughout their sentence. As it is probably unrealistic to envisage the total closure of Bullwood in the near future, we put forward some short-term proposals for reducing the number of girls held there.

We fully support the "Keep Out" campaign in their demand for more facilities to treat psychiatric cases outside penal establishments. Except in the case of murder, we should like to see the end of custodial sentences for 15-year-old girls — whether the current sentence of borstal training, or the youth custody order proposed in the Criminal Justice Bill.

At present, all 15-year-olds have to be sent to Bullwood rather than to one of the open borstals for girls, at Moor Park in Staffordshire or at East Sutton Park in Kent, because only at Bullwood can they receive full-time education. The very few girls in this age group who need to be locked up could be contained in local authority secure units; this would have the added advantage of placing them near their homes, so enabling them to keep in touch with their families and local community.

We suggest that more girls than at present could safely be held in open units. We have visited the open borstal at East Sutton Park and we suggest that young women with violence on their record react no differently to the regime than others. The absence of vandalism in this smaller establishment suggests that more young women could safely serve their sentences under open conditions.

A reduction in the number of girls and young women sent to Bullwood Hall should make it possible to improve conditions there, and to enable them to keep the numbers in the prison wings. On every visit, the staff told us how much more satisfactory it was to work with 20 girls on the two small wings than with 35, which is the norm; the atmosphere on the small wings is much calmer, and hence more therapeutic.

We hope that the greater flexibility of the youth custody order will enable these and other changes to be introduced.

Yours faithfully,
ANNE WEITZMAN,
SALLY-SAMPSON,
SARAH CURTIS,
21 St James's Gardens, W11.

Serious censorship

From Mr Michael Winner

Sir, I agree with Mr. Kitching (February 22) that a great many people would join him in encouraging film censorship at its present ferocious level. But then many people encouraged the over-painting of oil paintings with fig-leaves and the covering of tableaux vivants in Victorian times. I nevertheless maintain my belief that the majority of adults in this country would wish to be able to see films without the severe cutting by one dictatorial man working without an appeal heard. I think it is not done by our contemporaries or the Continent any harm to see films that we are unable to.

To believe that if you cut dramatic reconstructions of unpleasant aspects of life from movies, it will become sweeter and less violent is optimistic in the extreme.

Mr Kitching seems to be saying that because he can quote three critical words from reviews of my film, *Death Wish II*, that makes it all the more worthwhile that it was censored. I could match him, quote for quote, in words of praise; but that has no bearing on the matter either.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL WINNER,
Screenplay Films Limited,
6-8 Sackville Street, W.1.

Subject for satire?

From Mr Richard Barlow

Sir, Neither a Christian nor a Hindu myself, I feel entitled to ask why the arrival of Swami Mukunda in Bombay in a Lincoln Continental should be treated, in your report on February 18, as a matter for derision while the arrival of the Pope in Liverpool in an open car of unspecified make on the same day was not.

The fact that a special bungalow, albeit of "elegant but simple" design, had been built for the Pope's use on his brief visit was arguably as much an insult for him as the Swami's pink robe, just as the "objective listener" who found the Swami's message banal and trite, would surely have had something to say about the Pope's strictures against artificial contraception in overpopulated Africa.

being void of any possibility of being guilty of cultural bias, might I suggest that before the Pope's next visit you arrange for an exchange between your two correspondents?

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD BARLOW,
Duke's Court,
Kent Gardens, W11.

Focus on

Portugal

Portugal's Coalition Government has to weather troubled times. But while the country's economic difficulties are fundamental, almost eight years after the "Revolution of the Carnations" it is the time-consuming, lumbering struggle of rival political factions which often dominates the national scene.

Senhor Francisco Pinto Balsemão, the middle of the road Social Democrat Prime Minister, has this month had to withstand a politically inspired 24-hour general strike called by the Communists and to face a motion of no confidence put down in Parliament by the Socialist opposition.

After the Communist-led General Confederation of Labour failed to paralyse the country, largely because workers in the rival pro-Socialist and Social Democrat TUC refused to join in, the Interior Minister chose to counter attack. The arrests after the February 12 general strike led, he claimed, to the discovery that the Communists were behind "concrete plans to subvert democratic institutions."

Of course the Communists denied any such thing but the Government charges did come after Senhor Mario Soares, the Socialists' leader, had already charged that the rigidly pro-Moscow line Portuguese Communist Party was carrying out a Soviet plan to destabilise the entire Iberian peninsula.

Apology demanded and obtained

When Moscow's Ambassador in Lisbon replied, insulting Senhor Soares, the Government demanded, and obtained, an apology. It was a secret to no one in Lisbon that what lay behind all this Communist agitation was a determination to oppose tough and nail reform of the 1976 Constitution.

The scenario is for the Constitution to be short of the Marxist Socialist excesses imposed by revolutionary fervour in those days by a democratic vote of Parliament, and for a solemn proclamation of the reforms on April 25, the eighth anniversary of the Armed Forces' Revolution.

The reforms, if they are agreed in Parliament by that date, are supposed to usher in a settled era of Portuguese politics with a

fully functioning western democracy of two main groupings alternating in power.

But today it is abundantly clear that the revolutionary experience and the loss of a 400-year-old empire have left consequences which simply cannot be legislated away as Senhor Sá Carneiro, the post-revolutionary Prime Minister, who died in an aircraft crash in December 1980, intended. Far too many problems of social coexistence and economic survival remain to be resolved.

No one can say where Senhor Sá Carneiro's "grand design" would have ended or, if he had lived, whether Portugal might not have experienced an outright restoration. His death undoubtedly left a void to be filled. All last year was spent adjusting to his disappearance, which also left President António Ramalho Eanes, Portugal's 47-year-old army general, virtually unchallengeable after his reelection for a second five-year term within days of the Social Democratic Prime Minister's death.

Senhor Pinto Balsemão, his genuinely middle of the road successor, had throughout 1981 to struggle to assert his own authority as various "barons" within his own party and the right-wing Christian Democratic Party in the loose Democratic Alliance coalition each sought to manoeuvre to influence government policy or merely enhance their own sphere of personal power.

Last summer's political crisis, when Senhor Pinto Balsemão first stopped challenging his rivals and then was called back, could not really be definitive since all the elements of the coalition need each other to remain in power.

Unfortunately for the Prime Minister, what came afterwards was the prolonged economic crisis which still overshadows the national scene. Everyone from the IMF and the OECD to Senhor João Salgueiro, one of the three "superministers" to emerge after the August reshuffle and put in charge of finance, planning and European integration, has told the Portuguese people, in more or less diplomatic language, that they are living beyond their means.

As 1982 ended Portugal had a balance of payments deficit of \$2,000m, an even



A villager in the north-east. The tiny agricultural plots of northern Portugal underline the daunting tasks of modernization the country faces if it is to cope with entry to the EEC in 1984. Richard Wigg discusses the domestic political scene (left) and (below) analyses the new mood of realism about Community membership

worse record of deficit than that of 1977, after three preceding years of revolutionary upheavals.

Senhor Sá Carneiro may have had a political grand design, but his Government failed to find any formulae or motivation to make the Portuguese people work harder and prosper. Petrol imports, coupled with the dollar's rise, high interest rates and the drought, bringing a 30 per cent drop in harvests, could all be blamed, and were. But Portugal, which since the Revolution has had to import annually 50 to 60 per cent of its food

requirements, ended last year with an official admission of 75 per cent of food imports.

No wonder that President Eanes, in his new year message, declared that the economic question will this year be "the crucial problem for Portugal whatever happens in politics."

The 1982 budget was presented by Senhor Salgueiro last November as designed for "national salvation," but the austerity measures, above all a wage ceiling set well below the officially admitted inflation rates, have inevitably made the going tough for Senhor Pinto Balsemão.

The Communists, who anyway promised his Government labour trouble right from the day his second Administration was approved by Parliament, began a series of ever-widening strikes, culminating in the 24-hour general strike.

But the Socialists, led by Senhor Mario Soares, also decided the time had come last month to launch a campaign offering themselves as an alternative government.

The social and economic troubles did not however,

prevent Portugal's politicians continuing their habitual infighting. For if Senhor Pinto Balsemão had problems in his party, Senhor Soares had to struggle to regain a highly personalized sway over his formation.

The biggest surprise came, however, last month when President Eanes, who had notably helped the Prime Minister to win through last summer's crisis, appeared to make a contribution of his own. Only days after demanding in the new year message that Portugal's politicians work towards consensus solutions, the president launched

his own initiative. Perhaps it was the only way, he judged, he could influence a Parliamentary commission quietly working away at severely reducing the presidential powers under the Constitution which created Portugal's unique semi-presidential system.

The Prime Minister is the chief of the executive responsible to Parliament but one key provision of the 1976 Constitution gives the directly elected president the right to relieve the premier and four years ago President Eanes sent Senhor Soares, Portugal's first Socialist Prime Minister into opposition by using it.

Alarm for party politicians

President Eanes' threat, issued through a trusted spokesman, that if he lost those powers he would promulgate constitutional reforms but then resign and form his own political movement, alarmed the party politicians deeply. But it was the clearly implied challenge to their own future, through a realignment of political forces, which worried them most.

The semi-presidential system, enshrining a method of checks and balances, can be defended respectfully enough, even if Portugal's strong-willed politicians are precisely those who find it most awkward to work. But for the Portuguese people there are advantages in a presidential arbiter, provided he intervenes only occasionally, when the national interest demands, and lets the Government of the day get on with the business of the day.

The December 1980 presidential election, in which Senhor Sá Carneiro campaigned so vehemently until the air killed him three days before polling, showed that the Portuguese do, indeed, favour the existing system, and then rejected the figurehead-type presidency Senhor Sá Carneiro's candidate offered them. After President Eanes' initiative last month, a public opinion poll, published in the *Lisbon Expresso*, showed 45 per cent of those questioned supported him against only 21 per cent wanting to see any change in the presidential powers. Almost 28 per cent said they would even vote for him if he chose to

launch his own political movement.

The party politicians had little real excuse for being shocked. Early in December President Eanes, while rejecting those voices calling on him to form a presidential party, had bluntly warned the parties that if they went on showing little capacity to solve the nation's problems he might exercise his power to dissolve Parliament and call elections earlier than the constitutionally foreseen date, October, 1984.

The upshot of the debate which followed the presidential initiative was that the Socialists, whose support is vital to the Democratic Alliance Government to provide the two-thirds majority required for any constitutional reform, decided the President should keep his political powers, though lose to the Government the right to nominate the service chiefs and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The Revolutionary Council, the Armed Forces' watchdog, originally set up precisely in an effort to maintain revolutionary provisions in the Constitution, is however doomed. Repeatedly it has challenged the Sá Carneiro and Pinto Balsemão Governments head on, blocking legislation passed by parliamentary majorities.

Colonel Melo Antunes, one of the surviving figures of the revolutionary era and chairman of the Constitutional Committee of the Revolutionary Council, suggested in an interview with a French magazine last December that if the party politicians were bent on confrontation with a presidency whose powers they resented Portugal could find itself in a cul de sac. The only way out was fresh elections and a left wing government based on an alliance of Socialists and Communists. He was answered frankly by Senhor Soares making clear that after the Portuguese Communist Party's defence of the Jaruzelski regime in Poland, such an idea was totally unrealistic.

With an increase of about 25 per cent in consumer prices last year and wage ceilings on top of a per capita level of national income half that of Greece, the mass of ordinary Portuguese people are experiencing hard times and no government can hope to be popular or keep its morale high.

Going to market... slowly

When a delegation from Portugal's Confederation of Industry (CIP) went on a fact-finding mission to the European Community headquarters last December M. Etienne Davignon, vice president of the Brussels Commission, warned them: "Joining the EEC, is not like writing a letter to Father Christmas."

As the negotiations for Portugal's joining reach the detailed stage — the Pinto Balsemão Government wants them to be carried through to conclusion by late this year or early 1983 with the accession date still targeted as January 1, 1984 — a belated realism is beginning to grow among businessmen, industrialists, importers, and some of the better-informed retailers and farmers.

This is the biggest change noticeable in Portugal. First applied formally to join in 1977 — after years of generalized professions of support for accession without any detailed study or prior knowledge of the problems. The stage of effective preparation for entry however has still really to begin.

The problems facing Portugal's textile industry over integration well illustrate some of the new realism. There exist numerous small and medium-sized firms, 85 per cent of the industry, but they only produce some 30 per cent of the textiles and clothing. The Confederation of Industry, defending their interests as members, has been flatly urging the Government since last summer not to join the EEC if, as one director expressed it,

"the Common Market is unwilling to apply its own basic principle of a market without internal trading barriers to Portugal's chief export."

Even before acceding Portugal is experiencing the effects of one of those typical tough Brussels battles over the economic and political interests of existing member states. Britain and France are especially unwilling further to sacrifice their own textile industries to a more competitive newcomer in items like blouses, T-shirts, and trousers. The rhetoric of aid to Portugal helping one of the poorer nations of Southern Europe to integrate.

With the voluntary restraint agreement having run out on December 31, something to put in its place is being devised by the Ten. Senhor João Salgueiro, the Finance Minister who has charge of the EEC negotiations, knows that one sector, however influential, cannot be allowed to dictate the course of the entire negotiations. In Brussels last month he only warned the Ten, therefore, that Portugal could not accept quotas of voluntary restraints which would "seriously" limit its future textile exports.

The EEC last year agreed 275 million units of account pre-accession aid to Portugal, 100 million as grant and 150 million as soft loans. Again, a conflict of interest emerged with France and Italy unwilling under the provision for aid to small and medium-sized Portuguese firms to modernize, that funds should go precisely to the textile

industry. It had, they maintained, to be aid to diversify into new areas, ideally in a future marriage of Portugal's relative low wage costs, and imports of new technology elsewhere. Meanwhile France and Italy used other EEC funds to modernize their own textile industries.

Agriculture is another vital sector where that pre-accession aid is foreseen. As joining comes slowly nearer, realism is beginning to concentrate not on the single problem of Portugal's future exports to the Community of tomato paste (as in the past) but on the immense problems of farm modernization, agricultural training and organization of markets. But little has happened because of the absence of projects from Portugal.

Today's realities are daunting

In theory, modern farming methods could with specific crops bring increases in productivity in Portugal of up to 200 to 300 per cent. Today's reality however is daunting: 300,000 out of Portugal's total of 800,000 farms have less than one hectare, 50 per cent of the farmers (average age 50) are financially illiterate and an estimated 75 per cent have no idea of book-keeping. The farming sector accounts for only 18 per cent of the gross domestic product while employing 33 per cent of the national labour force. Agricultural productivity is still below what it was in the last year before the Revolution yet almost six years have elapsed since the first democratically elected government took office after it.

In the face of massive food imports, never below 50 per cent of the nation's total requirements since 1974, the Government has just begun an incentive scheme to stimulate Portugal's farmers to grow more cereals, though this has run into criticism for concentrating on a mere volume increase when there exists an urgent need to improve quality.

In spite of promises by the Sá Carneiro and Pinto Balsemão Governments the consolidation of the nation's farming units in northern Portugal has not been pushed ahead nor is there a vigorous cooperative movement in preparation for EEC entry.

How long then will Portugal's fragile economy still need to prepare for joining?

One element in the Government's strategy of pushing ahead politically is admitted privately to be based on the judgment that entrepreneurs will be jolted into taking their own necessary decisions after endlessly putting them off.

Following the example of Greece, Portuguese experts now argue that the country's agriculture risks buckling under a five-year transition period, and that Lisbon's negotiators must obtain from Brussels ten years, especially for the most vulnerable sectors like dairy and meat products. The danger to agriculture comes especially from Portugal's two big neighbours, France and Spain after joining, and one former Portuguese agricultural minister has seriously maintained his country would need as much as a 20 year transition period.

A major headache is that Portugal's chronic balance of payments deficit problem, already an immense "bottleneck" for the nation's economic growth, would become even worse if more costly cereals were imported from EEC partners instead of as now from the United States or Canada. Portugal herself has a convergent interest with Britain over reforming the Community's budget and agricultural policy.

Many informed Portuguese now argue to the effect that a more flexible attitude is required of Brussels over a compensatory resort by Portugal to the European regional development and social funds if an acceptable packet of prospects and burdens involved is ever to be reached.

For industry a five year general transition period is spoken of, but trade organizations always couple this with provisos about the use of safeguard clauses sectorially. The Government has still to adopt a detailed position, industrialists say. Portuguese businessmen are deeply worried about Spanish industrial competition after entry and about multinationals setting up new modern plants.

If you ask a Portuguese executive why more preparation has not gone forward over the past five years the most common reply is to blame the country's politicians, all from left to right, with stability and certainty still not in sight for investors.

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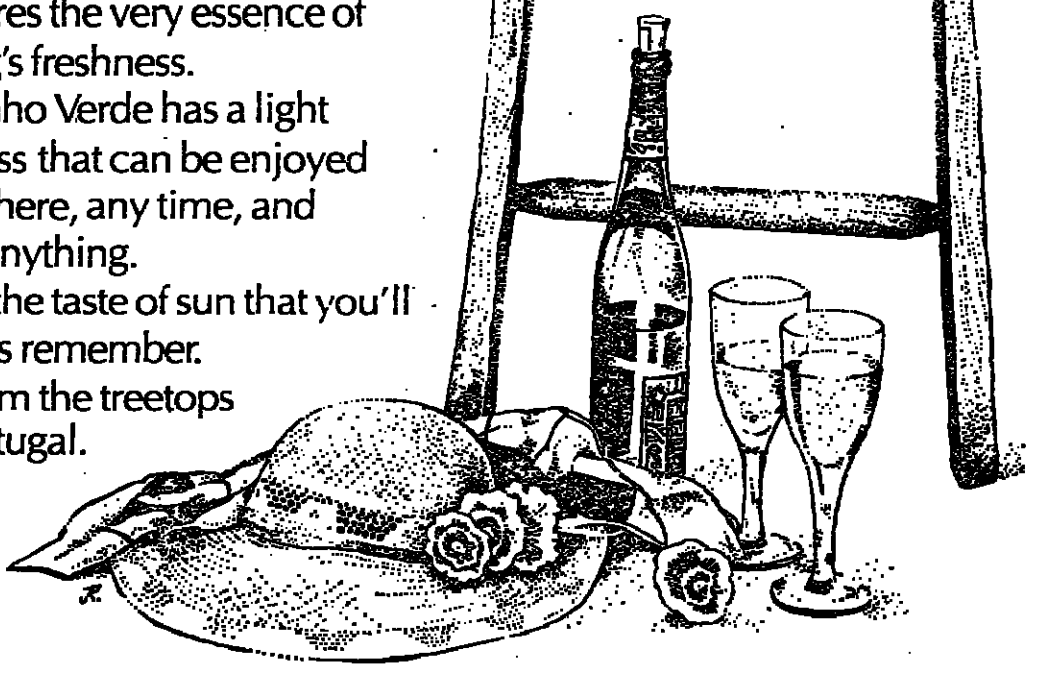
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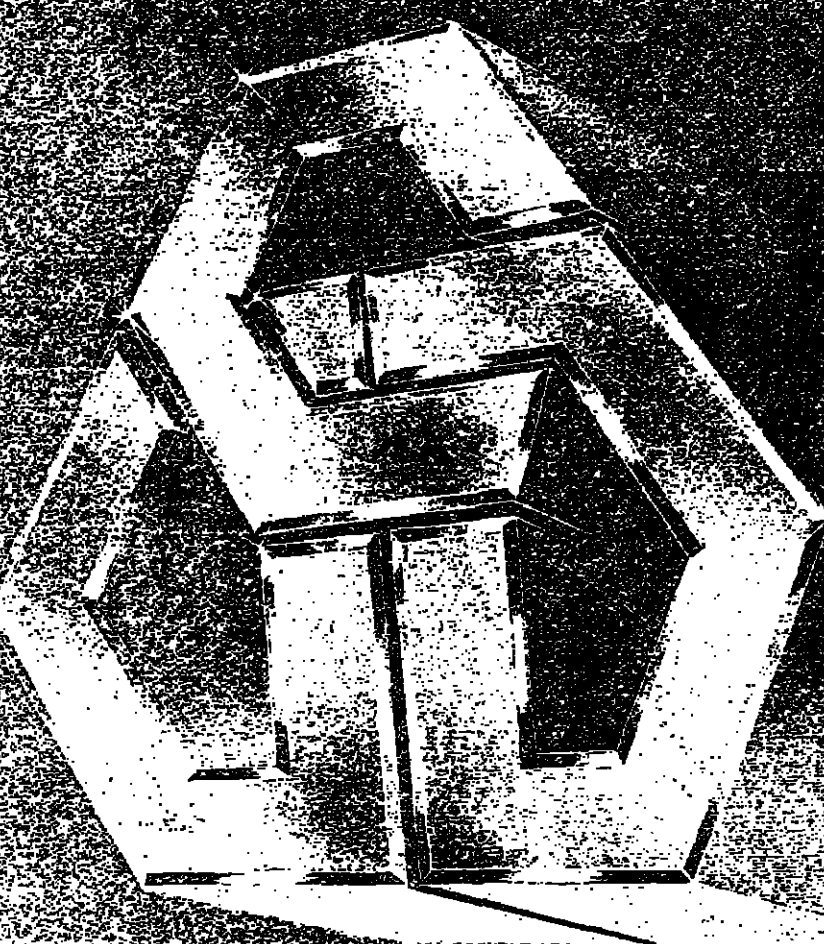
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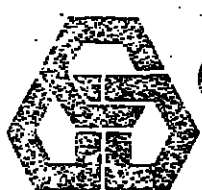
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Despite intensive government attempts in recent years to attract foreign investors to Portugal, overall results have not been highly successful. While the percentage increase of direct foreign investment in 1981 rose by 43.4, it amounted to a mere 9,000m escudos (about 90m), and only 19 per cent of this went into new plant, a low figure for a country which must invest heavily to meet the challenge of entry to the European Economic Community.

Speeding up evaluation

In the first half of 1981, a current account deficit of \$1,600m was recorded and it is officially predicted that the total for the year may be close to \$2,000m (the 1974 forecast was \$1,750m in 1981). The major reason for the increase in the current account deficit was a decline in the terms of trade and high demand for imports, particularly oil, which were nearly twice as large as

led with this the Government is putting the finishing touches to a new packet of foreign investment measures, including alterations to the foreign investment code established in 1977, removing restrictive aspects.

An important planned reform here will be the liberalization of conditions for the repatriation of capital and dividends by foreign investors now conditioned by delays related to Portugal's balance of payments.

Two top priority areas to which the Government applies even more attractive investment incentives are the tourism industry and export-oriented enterprises. Investors in these sectors have privileged access to hard-to-get local credit (stringently controlled by credit ceilings set by the Central Bank) and other fiscal and financial perks.

Arab world investors have shown a certain positive response recently to these schemes and are moving into tourism projects. A Swiss-based Saudi group signed a \$36.5m joint venture deal with the state-owned oil

company Petrogal to build and operate two luxury hotels in Lisbon and Oporto. Danish and Arab entrepreneurs are said to be on the verge of signing deals to open multi-million dollar tourist complexes of the Club Med type in different parts of the country.

These areas apart, foreign companies are also looking hard at Portugal as an export base both to the EEC and to the former Portuguese colonies. Encouraging this trend, the Government is vigorously promoting its Sines industrial complex and harbour south of Lisbon.

This 41,000 hectare estate is graded for medium-sized projects aimed at export markets in the Middle East, Africa and the Mediterranean. Sines administrators have hired an American research company to sell its facilities to potential North American investors. As a result, the Ford motor company retains its expressed interest in establishing a joint venture plant at Sines once the world car

PORTUGAL

The Government is resorting to austerity programmes to limit damage to the economy. At the same time, the authorities are trying to encourage foreign investors.

Revenue is rising, but so is the deficit

Portugal was forced last year to slow the pace of growth in the economy to adjust to worsening domestic and international economic conditions. After a remarkable 5.5 per cent growth in 1980, the rate declined by more than half to 2.5 per cent last year. This was the intended effect of a mini-budget introduced in July 1981, which raised interest rates to tighten credit (despite the implications of such a measure for the numerous firms in a weak financial position), and to contain inflation and the current account deficit within manageable levels. At the same time, the Government moved to raise public service and energy prices and began a programme of scrapping price subsidies.

By the end of the year it was clear that this first austerity programme was failing to reach its goals and the Government then found it necessary to introduce a more stringent plan. After seven years of climbing budget deficits, the prime targets for austerity were, again, the civil service, the budgets of state sector enterprises and subsidies. Revenue in 1982 is now expected to rise by a quarter to 352,000m escudos, the result of increases in indirect and certain direct taxes (as well as bringing civil servants into the tax net for the first time), more efficient tax collection and tougher measures to prevent fiscal fraud.

Despite the predicted increase in revenues, the deficit is still expected to go up by about 5 per cent to 151,000m escudos in 1982. About two-thirds of this are accounted for by rising interest payments in Portugal's \$10,000m foreign debt.

Portugal's austere plans for 1982 are based on the expectation of normal rainfall. The country's problems in 1981 were compounded by a severe drought which broke with flooding in January this year. Full results are not yet available, but it is estimated that cereal crops fell by 40 per cent in 1981 from 1980 output.

The country's problems for electricity generation rose substantially. Imports of food and animal feeds had to be boosted by 74 per cent from their 1980 levels. The extra cost of food and grain alone is put at \$1,500m, while it is likely that Portugal will continue to import electricity, at least until its hydroelectric reservoirs attain near normal levels. In 1981 these imports, mostly from France, were up 67 per cent over 1980 figures.

Speeding up evaluation

In the first half of 1981, a current account deficit of \$1,600m was recorded and it is officially predicted that the total for the year may be close to \$2,000m (the 1974 forecast was \$1,750m in 1981). The major reason for the increase in the current account deficit was a decline in the terms of trade and high demand for imports, particularly oil, which were nearly twice as large as

led with this the Government is putting the finishing touches to a new packet of foreign investment measures, including alterations to the foreign investment code established in 1977, removing restrictive aspects.

An important planned reform here will be the liberalization of conditions for the repatriation of capital and dividends by foreign investors now conditioned by delays related to Portugal's balance of payments.

Two top priority areas to which the Government applies even more attractive investment incentives are the tourism industry and export-oriented enterprises. Investors in these sectors have privileged access to hard-to-get local credit (stringently controlled by credit ceilings set by the Central Bank) and other fiscal and financial perks.

Arab world investors have shown a certain positive response recently to these schemes and are moving into tourism projects. A Swiss-based Saudi group signed a \$36.5m joint venture deal with the state-owned oil

company Petrogal to build and operate two luxury hotels in Lisbon and Oporto. Danish and Arab entrepreneurs are said to be on the verge of signing deals to open multi-million dollar tourist complexes of the Club Med type in different parts of the country.

These areas apart, foreign companies are also looking hard at Portugal as an export base both to the EEC and to the former Portuguese colonies. Encouraging this trend, the Government is vigorously promoting its Sines industrial complex and harbour south of Lisbon.

This 41,000 hectare estate is graded for medium-sized projects aimed at export markets in the Middle East, Africa and the Mediterranean. Sines administrators have hired an American research company to sell its facilities to potential North American investors. As a result, the Ford motor company retains its expressed interest in establishing a joint venture plant at Sines once the world car

Portugal's exports. Despite a 10 per cent rise in exports in the first nine months of last year, imports fell by only 3 per cent in response to the Government's two austerity packages in 1981.

Other explanations for the growth of the current account deficit include a decline in remittances from workers in Europe (these were to some extent cushioned by those from the rest of the world, inflated by the US dollar's strength during 1981) and, although tourist arrivals were at near record levels, individuals' spending was depressed by higher local prices and a tendency to cut spending luxuries.

The enlarged current account deficit was financed almost entirely by capital inflows. Last year was a record year on the Euromarkets for Portugal, and about \$1,100m was raised up to November 1981 or more than twice as much as during the whole of 1980. Portugal's \$500m jumbo loan in early 1981 commanded the finest spreads the country has yet achieved (half point over Libor for the first six years and three quarters of a point for the remainder) and represented a significant advance in terms on 1980's rather smaller-scale loan to the republic.

In the last quarter of 1981, the Portuguese Post Office — CTT (\$50m), the Airport Authority — ESPANA (\$20m), the Sines port and petrochemical scheme — GAS (\$50m) and the highway authority — JAE (\$80m) all raised money on the Euromarkets. Direct foreign investment, influenced by Portugal's efforts to join the EEC, increased by 150 per cent in 1980 and 49 per cent in 1981 to total 9,300m escudos in the latter year. Industrial investments accounted for about half the 1981 figure and those in services (including tourism) for some 40 per cent; the United States and France together contributed half of the total investment from overseas in 1981.

Due to high inflows of foreign loans and direct investment, foreign exchange reserves (excluding gold) rose from \$795m in September 1980 to \$814m a year later. However, by October 1981 they had dropped to \$616m as reserves were drawn down to pay for imports and for interest and amortizations on loans. Portugal also holds 22 million ounces of gold in its reserves — which are valued at close to \$9,000m at current market prices — for official purposes they are valued at \$5,600m by the Portuguese; less than one tonne of gold is now held as pledges against Portugal's loans, due to their repayment on schedule.

In wages policy, the Government has endeavoured to bring down the target for wage awards from 23 per cent in 1980 to 16 per cent to 17.2 per cent in 1981 and has set a target of 14.75 per cent for this year, with a 2 per cent margin for increases in productivity. Lower wage rises have caused a marked worsening of the labour

climate and strikes cost the country 70 million lost man-hours last year. A general strike on February 12 was called by Inter-sindical. The decline in wage rise targets is intended to contribute to the reduction of inflation, which fell from 24.2 per cent in 1979 to 14.4 per cent in 1980 — one of the major successes of Senhor Sa Carneiro's period of government — aided by the year's abundant crops and a revaluation of the escudo in February 1980. In the year to September 1981, consumer prices increased at a rate of 23.6 per cent, boosted by local cost increases, due to the effect of the drought on food prices (23.9 per cent) and higher energy and tax costs.

Agriculture a problem

The drought-related cuts in energy supplies to Portuguese companies have had their effect on output. This is consistent with the findings of an INE (National Statistical Institute) business survey conducted in the third quarter of 1981, which reported that the expectation of fewer export orders was also having a depressing effect. This reverses the trend between 1977 and 1980 when foreign demand for Portuguese products provided the market with buoyancy; now the converse is true. Industries producing intermediate goods appeared to be suffering most, with more than a third of respondents reporting over capacity for work in hand.

To double the rate of exports' increase to 7.5 per cent this year from 3.5 per cent in 1981, the authorities have announced that the crawling-peg devaluation of the escudo is to be speeded up from 0.5 per cent to 0.75 per cent a month. Last year the escudo lost 6.25 per cent against a basket of the currencies of Portugal's major trading partners. It lost 19.1 per cent and 18.3 per cent respectively against the Canadian and US dollars, 17 per cent against the Swiss franc and 14.4 per cent against the yen. On the other hand it gained 5.6 per cent against the Italian lira, 5.3 per cent on the South African rand and 2.8 per cent on the Swedish krona. As demand for Portuguese exports grows, additional export incentives are planned and access to export credits for major local firms, guaranteed.

To help maintain demand, investments of 53,900m escudos by the public sector are planned for the year. Funds are earmarked for the Sines petrochemical and industrial complex and deep-water port, and an airport in Madeira, as well as for highways, agriculture aids and drought relief and education. After rises of 4 per cent and 3 per cent respectively in 1981, public and private consumption are both forecast to rise by only 2 per cent this year, as a result of the Government's 1982 austerity schemes. As part of the

effort, a borrowing limit of \$550m has been applied to foreign loans. Even this sum may not be raised as a result of late cutbacks in current and investment expenditure planned for 1982.

Agriculture remains an area of prime government concern, with its present level of productivity a major brake on development. As well as making drought aid available, official price support levels are being increased. The agrarian reform programme has had to be halted, but idle land is still liable to expropriation. In future, official support will be granted for new crops including sugar, tobacco and cotton, as well as investments to improve marketing and technology.

Two other major challenges face the country in the economic arena this year: reform of the 1976 post-revolution constitution, and accession to the EEC. Both have tempered policy-making since the Democratic Alliance took power after the December 1980 elections. To amend the constitution, the Democratic Alliance must obtain a two-thirds majority in the Assembly. A multi-party committee is working on amendments for debate, and the new legislation is expected to be passed by April 25. So far the committee has agreed measures to abolish the Council of the Revolution, a non-elected all-military body which has veto powers over the Government legislation. Progress on the vexed issue of denationalization of heavy industry and banking and insurance has been much slower. Senhor Pinto Balsemão, the Prime Minister, has stated that reform to the public sector aspects of the constitution will be within the realms of the possible, rather than the justifiable.

Although the admission date for entry to the EEC has been postponed from 1983 to 1984, given the EEC's own budget and agricultural (CAP) problems, enthusiasm among Portugal's major political parties (except the Communists) remains high. The Portuguese are worried that delays in Spain's negotiations, especially on agriculture, will delay their own accession beyond January 1, 1984, and Senhor Pinto Balsemão has been pressing EEC heads of government to allow his country to sign the preliminary treaty towards the end of this year.

Even if Portugal should see its wish fulfilled, long transitional periods are expected for agriculture, fishing, textiles and the free movement of capital and labour. The community is providing 275 million units of account (EUA) as pre-accession finance (loans, 150 million EUA and grants, 125 million EUA) — 30 per cent below Portugal's original request — for investment in agricultural and regional development, roads and tourism projects, help for small and medium-scale industry and vocational training.

Michael Woollier

Where are the foreign investors?

market swings upward again, and the giant Anaconda copper smelting company has been looking at facilities at Sines.

Nearby, the richest pyrite deposits in Western Europe are sparking much interest among foreign investors. The Government is keen to ensure that this mineral wealth is turned into a value-added asset and is exploring deals to process the raw material locally and export finished products.

On the financial front many international banks have opened representative offices and parabanque organizations. The financiers are positioning themselves for the time when Portugal's highly restrictive legislation on banking and insurance changes. So far the government has four times tried to alter the 1977 private and public sector law, governing these activities and which for ideological reasons prevents new private banks from opening here.

A Special Correspondent



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FOCUS

General

After a period of authoritarian rule which culminated in a military coup in 1974, two years of political turmoil followed until the country was rescued from chaos by General António Ramalho Eanes. He handed over the Government to civilian politicians and in 1980 a right of centre government was formed by the Democratic Alliance, a coalition of Social Democrats, Centre Democratic and Popular Monarchist parties. Senhor Francisco Sá Carneiro was elected Prime Minister and the country appeared to be on a more stable course but in December 1980, a new government was formed with Senhor Francisco Pinto Balsemão as Prime Minister, who later appeared to be on a collision course with the re-elected President, General Eanes, over revision of the constitution. Senhor Pinto Balsemão's Democratic Alliance won 47.10 per cent of the votes in the 1980 general elections, and in the unlikely event of the Socialist parties improving their opposition, the present Government should remain in power until 1984.

The Government's main task now is to restructure the economy and to prepare Portugal's accession to the EEC, also planned for 1984.

Head of State



President of the Republic, General António Ramalho Eanes

The Government

Prime Minister, Senhor Francisco Pinto Balsemão
Assistant Prime Minister, Senhor Fernando do Amaral
Vice-Prime Minister and Defence, Senhor Diogo Freitas do Amaral

Quality of Life

Senhor Gonçalo Ribeiro
Finance and Planning, Senhor João Salgueiro
Interior, Senhor Angelo Correia
Foreign Affairs, Senhor Andre Gonçalves
Justice, Senhor José Meneses Pimentel
Education, Senhor Vitor Pereira Crespo
Labour, Senhor António Queirós
Social Affairs, Senhor Luís Barbosa
Agriculture, Commerce and Fishing, Senhor Basílio Horta
Industry, energy and exports, Senhor Ricardo Bayão Horta
Culture and science, Senhor Francisco Lucas Pires
Housing, public works and transport, Senhor José Viana Baptista

Main ministries and government offices

Interior, Praça Comércio, 1100 Lisbon. Telephone 364521; telex 16765 GBMAI P; fax dept, telex 18791 DSECEP P
Agriculture, Praça Comércio, 1100 Lisbon. Telephone 366449; telex 13517 MAP P
Communications, Praça Restauradores, 1200 Lisbon. Telephone 362531; telex 12562 MCSNOT P
Commerce and Tourism, Avenida República 79, 1094 Lisbon. Telephone 321909; telex 13455 COMINT P
Education, Avenida 5 Outubro 107, 1000 Lisbon. Telephone 778793; telex 18428 EDUCA P
Finance, Avenida Laf, D.H. Henrique, 1100 Lisbon. Telephone 366555; telex 12143 MINFINP
Housing, Rua Castilho 50, 1200 Lisbon. Telephone 368851; telex 13461 MHUC P
Industry, Rua Horta Seca 15, 1200 Lisbon. Telephone 327391; telex 13462 MITLEX P
Navy, Praça Comércio, 1100 Lisbon. Telephone 368960; telex 12587 CENCOM P

The political parties

AD - Democratic Alliance
PSD - Social Democratic Party
CDS - Centre Democratic Party
PPM - People's Monarchist Party
APU - United People's Alliance
MDP/CDE - People's Democratic Movement
PCP - Portuguese Communist Party
FRS - Republican and Socialist Front
PS - Socialist Party
UESD - Union of the Socialist and Democratic Left
ASDA - Association of Independent Social Democrats
UDP - People's Democratic Union

Public holidays 1982

April 9 Good Friday
25 Armed Forces Day
May 1 Labour Day
June 10 Corpus Christi
13 St Anthony (only Lisbon)
24 St John (only Oporto)
August 15 Assumption of Our Lady
October 5 Republic Day
November 1 All Saints Day
December 1 Independence Day
8 Immaculate Conception
24/25 Christmas

Business hours

Commercial offices: 09.00-13.00, 15.00-19.00; or 09.00-19.30; Saturday 09.00-13.00.

Passports

For a stay not exceeding 60 days a visa is not required by visitors holding valid British passports.

Currency

The unit of currency is the escudo which is divided into 100 centavos. The escudo sign comes between the number of escudos and centavos.
Rate of exchange: £1 = 128 escudos

Embassies

British Embassy (Commercial Dept.), Rua de S. Domingos a Lapa 35-39, 1296 Lisbon. Telephone: 661191 Telex: 12278
Portuguese Embassy, Trade Office, Portland House, Stag Place, London SW1E 5BH

Useful addresses

British-Portuguese Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 2190, 8 Rua da Estrela, Lisbon 2. Telephone: 66 15 86
International Chamber of Commerce and Associação Commercial de Lisboa, 89 Rua das Portas de Santo Antão, 1100 Lisbon.
Associação Commercial do Porto, Palácio da Bolsa, 4000 Oporto.
Confederação do Comércio Português, Av. Elias Garcia 59, 1000 Lisbon.

	1978	1979	1980
Tonnes	£'000	Tonnes	£'000
Livestock/meat	973	147	186
Vegetables	5,199	2,401	9,473
Fats and Oils	11	26	1,324
Sardines, anchovies and tomatoes	11,690	6,393	18,041
Port, madeira, etc	16,127	13,428	16,381
Mineral products	67,762	5,367	19,082
Chemicals	24,589	5,211	25,213
Plastics	1,208	1,503	2,753
Leather and hides	259	717	1,377
Wood/cork	364,848	35,959	483,355
Paper and board	108,088	17,066	106,384
Textiles	43,086	18,708	49,058
Footwear	2,938	7,420	4,078
Ceramics	22,472	4,659	22,470
Jewellery/stones	0	389	0
Metal products	5,485	3,384	10,807
Electric machinery	2,797	21,204	2,742
Transport equipment	12,125	4,859	1,874
Electronics	346	2,555	522
Arms	2	15	0
Furniture	235	562	508
Arts	7	1,023	36
Mail orders	—	345	11
Other	—	2,324	—
Total	685,040	256,221	1,015,098

	1978	1979	1980
Tonnes	£'000	Tonnes	£'000
Livestock/meat	4,112	2,259	678
Animal products	18,948	2,709	15,118
Fats and oils	1,090	528	993
Sugar	3	1	26
Whisky	1,689	2,178	2,007
Mineral products	262,188	19,620	234,787
Wood/cork	583	168	215
Paper and pulp	2,236	2,253	2,597
Textiles	8,438	14,875	8,809
Footwear	22	82	51
Ceramics	3,093	3,097	4,728
Jewellery/stones	4	1,203	4
Metal products	81,794	22,157	48,084
Elac. machinery	17,522	52,001	18,783
Transport equip.	52,921	88,104	52,208
Electronic etc.	47,511	5,874	518
Furniture	463	1,796	472
Arts	3	72	3
Mail orders	—	—	—
Other	—	22,629	—
Total	573,690	286,325	443,056

	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981*
Exports, fob	1,940	1,790	2,001	2,379	3,550	4,616	121.33 (Esc.bn)
Imports, fob	3,614	3,985	4,533	4,787	6,182	8,667	171.81
Balance	-1,674	-2,175	-2,532	-2,408	-2,632	-4,051	-50.57

Source: IMF and IMF * January-June

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Penta

Price Indices

Wholesale (1963=100) 524 602 638 —
Cost of living 25.7 23.6 14.9 25

Population

1975 8,979
1978 9,196
1979 9,324
1980 9,385

Unemployment

% of labour force
1978 8.2
1979 8.2
1980 7.8

Labour force - 1980

Main sectors	'000	% change from 1979
Agriculture	1,082	-4.8
Industry	1,071	2.1
Construction	372	13.8
Services	1,430	4.6

Main trading partners: 1981 (January-September)

Country	Imports	Exports
Escudos millions		
Total, all countries	421,917	82,279
EEC: total	158,497	96,590
W. Germany	43,968	21,890
Belgium	10,069	4,590
Denmark	1,867	2,847
France	32,000	23,000
Netherlands	12,179	8,270
Ireland	1,135	754
Italy	22,250	7,872
U.K.	34,730	26,562
Greece	267	789

Rest of the world:

Africa	25,394	22,808
N. America	66,848	14,780
Latin America	22,265	3,367
Asia	88,251	7,790
Middle East	67,040	4,003

Gross National Product

	Esc. Bn
1977	617.4
1978	765.8
1979	973.1
1980	1,174.9

Gross Domestic Product

	Esc. Bn	% growth
1977	624.2	5.4
1978	780.3	3.4
1979	994.4	4.5
1980	1,205.3	5.5
1981*	1,626.7	3.5*
1982*	2,114.7	3*

Source: IMF, Bank of Portugal, Central Planning Dept. and others.

Gold reserves

	SUS million
1976	27.67
1977	24.11
1978	22.13
1979	22.13
1980	22.17
1981 (Sept.)	22.16

Total external debt

	SUS billion
1976	4.4
1977	5.4
1978	6.6
1979	7.7

Main exports by products

Product	Per cent
Textiles	32
Wood - cork	16
Agricultural	15
Machinery	14
Other	23

Tourism

	Arrivals registered
1981*	6,392,311
1980	6,977,045
1979	5,287,352
1978	3,389,252

Bed nights

	1981**	1980	1979	1978
total	5,584,000	5,883,000	492,000	280,000
Britain	983,000	983,000	280,000	220,000
W. Germany	280,000	280,000	220,000	14,085,000
Spain	220,000	220,000	13,197,000	—
France	—	—	—	—

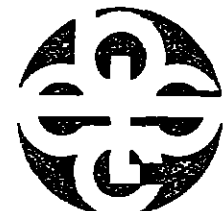
* January-October
** January-June

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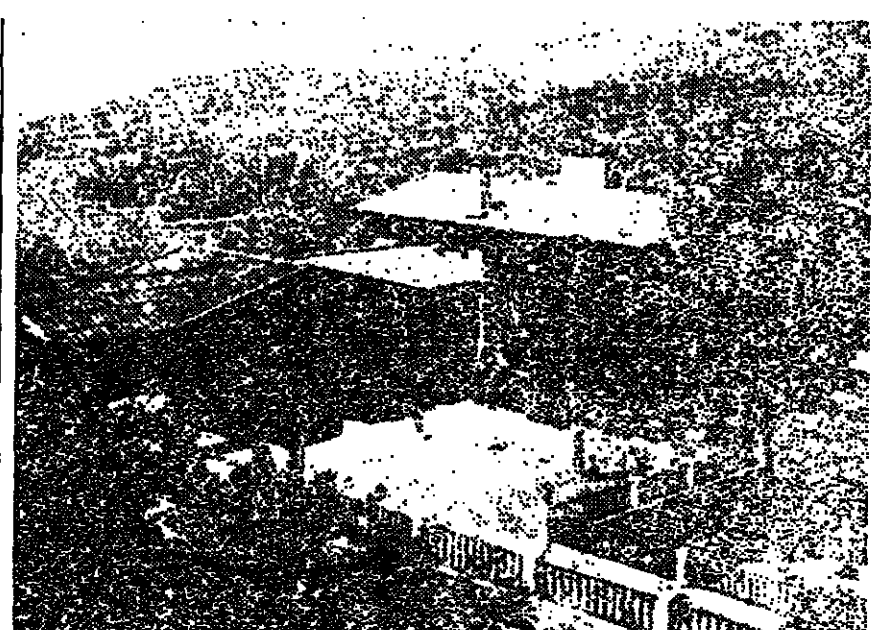


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B. Sitting outside a beach café eating freshly grilled sardines with homemade country bread, and drinking red wine from the wood, while the sun slowly sets over the ocean. For only £1.00 a head.

C. A fixed-price menu in a small continental roadside café: £4.00 a head without service.



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C. A modern tower block hotel overlooking the station. Half board and half built for £15.00 a night.

3 WHEN IT COMES TO SOUVENIRS WOULD YOU RATHER HAVE?

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C. A plastic replica of the Statue of Liberty.



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A. One that you discovered yourself.
B. One that was recommended by a local over a beer.
C. Where have all the people gone.

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PORTUGAL

SOCIETY

Choppy going as revolution moves out of backwater

Portugal's political revolution of 1974 has been followed by a slowly evolving social revolution the effects of which are proving even more profound than the political ones.

Portugal had long drownded in the social and economic backwaters of European development. Many of its rural areas had no electricity, running water, roads, or medical services. Workers were poorly paid and were denied the right to do anything about it by forming genuine trade unions. Women had few legal rights. The vast majority of the population had no access to the vote to defend their interests. Censorship was strict in the news media and the arts. Social benefits were miserly. Only a few could afford an education. Millions of workers emigrated to northern Europe and Africa for jobs.

In today's changing Portugal rural isolation is diminishing. Television has let in the outside world. With more money in their pockets, farmers are more and more inclined to travel outside their villages. But, at the same time, this outlook has made the young people seek a better life outside their villages. They crowd into the big cities of Lisbon and Oporto looking for jobs, but jobs are scarce. Often they are forced to turn to petty crime or prostitution.

Worker's wages on the whole have risen by over 300 per cent in the past eight years. They are joined now in strong unions which, through strikes, have forced owners to meet their demands. New labour laws say they cannot be fired. Some workers are actually running factories they took over from owners. But in spite of their higher salaries, their buying power has diminished. A steady 25 per cent inflation has eroded their benefits.

The rise of the dollar has nearly wrecked the economy. The cost of living has rocketed. One pound of beef costs five times its price in pre-revolutionary Portugal. Potatoes and other vegetables cost ten times what they did. There are sometimes shortages of staples like milk, making housewives stand in long queues to buy.

Constant strikes and other labour agitation has brought down production and frightened away potential investors,

which has contributed to unemployment.

Under Portugal's new constitution women have equal rights. All professions, including that of judge, have been opened to them. They are to receive equal work. Divorce has been made easy. In practice things have not really changed very much — especially in the countryside. Man still gets the best jobs and is master in the home. Wife beating is still a common phenomenon. Women — along with young people seeking their first jobs — have the greatest number of unemployed. The tight family structure that existed has somewhat broken down. The number of divorces has increased spectacularly.

When the right to vote was extended to everyone, including 18-year-olds, and political parties were formed, there was general rejoicing at the new found freedom and hope that the elected government would bring about an economic and social miracle. However, eight years and 14 governments later, disillusionment with politics and politicians has set in. A large segment of the population has become apathetic or highly critical of the system — a condition which is disturbing to those who want to see a lasting democratic system survive in Portugal.

A surge of creativity

After censorship was lifted, there followed a surge of creativity. Many new experimental theatres opened, and newspapers and magazines of every political and artistic tendency found their way onto the stands. At the same time, the new freedom brought in a wave of previously banned films and pornography. A new mentality was created. People felt they were free to do what they liked. Senhor João Vaz Serra da Moura, secretary of state in the Ministry for the Quality of Life said: "It changed the life of the people; it is a new morality".

After the revolution, the police were forced to be less repressive, and the secret police were disbanded. This in itself was good, but it had the effect of leaving the country vulnerable. International drug rings have used Portugal as a clearing house for drugs. The use of drugs

— even in schools and country districts — has become a problem. The police also have had to contend with a rise in violent crime, largely related to the great number of weapons distributed during the Revolution or brought back from the African wars. Lisbon and its suburbs are no longer the safe places they were a few years ago.

After the Revolution, masses of people flocked to get an education. The number of students rose from 200,000 to 1,200,000. The schools could not hold them all. For example, a secondary school in the working class suburb of Amadora near Lisbon was built for 1,200. It now has 20,000 enrolled. The students attend in shifts between seven in the morning and midnight. Text books are scarce, teachers are often absent and classes are held in halls, libraries and any other available space. Students spend their free periods in the street.

Discipline has broken down because of this and because the authoritarian system has been abandoned. Schools are now run by commissions of students, teachers and administrators. "There are problems, but they are being overcome. It is an education in democracy", one teacher said.

For the first time in its history Lisbon University has had to institute a rigid selection policy because of the high number of applicants. New universities have been opened in the provinces and new schools are being built with money from the Council of Europe. It has been a problem, however, to get competent teachers to go into the hinterland. Standards have had to be lowered.

Housing is the greatest shortage. People have no money to build their own homes as the Government has none to build them for them. However, the Government is making an effort to solve the shortage. Senhor Vaz Serra da Moura said: "We are trying to get private constructors to build for rental. All houses belonging to the state are being sold cheap to farmers and the proceeds used to build new houses."

The lack of housing is causing social problems and causing more and more shanty towns to grow up around the cities. There is a

large concentration of people in the overcrowded cities on the coast, so the Government is launching a campaign to develop the interior of the country to lure them back inland.

Portugal's hospitals are old, ill-equipped and overcrowded. Until recently there were few medical facilities outside the cities. Portugal ranks with Greece and Turkey in health and infant mortality rates. Two new hospitals are due to be built in Lisbon by 1984, and many small ones have been built around the country, but they are standing empty because of a lack of doctors. Portugal has the same ratio of doctors in the population as the rest of Europe, but they do not want to leave Lisbon and Oporto.

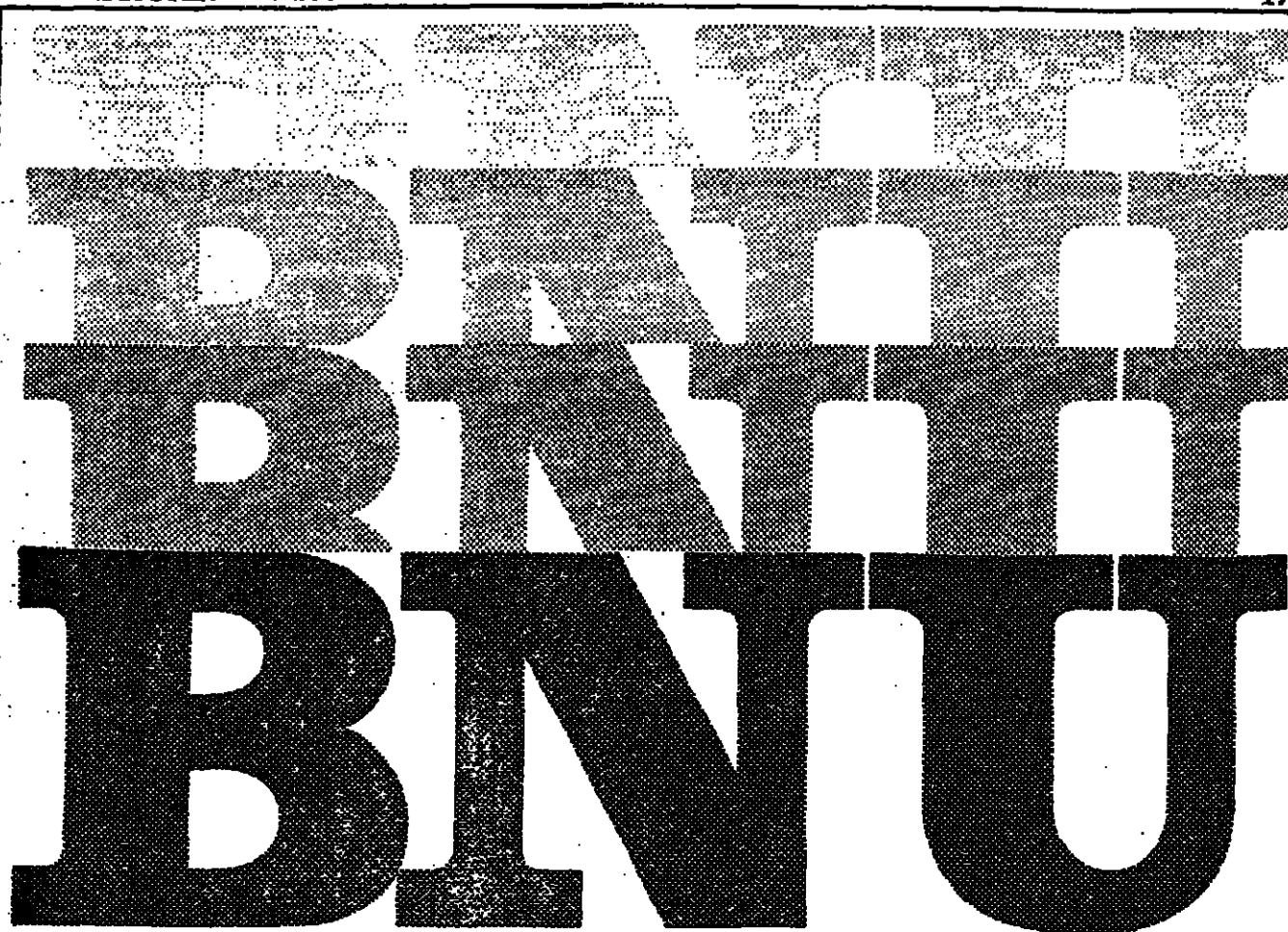
Big untaxed incomes

Government doctors are very poorly paid, but some in private practice have fabulous incomes — mostly untaxed. The public health system is a shambles and is riddled by corruption. For every two active workers there is one retired or an invalid. A government doctor said the ratio everywhere else was six to one. These "invalids" collect from the Government and go on working. Recent regulations have been enacted to stop the abuses, but have brought strong protests from patients and from pharmaceutical companies which also benefit from present practices.

Another factor which has had a strong social impact was the return of nearly one million people from Portugal's former African territories. Besides the returning Portuguese there were people of many races and cultures, who have brought new life styles. There are Indian shops, restaurants, hamburger houses, and many new small and medium-sized industries. Small African villages have grown up around Lisbon.

According to statistics, Portugal is very poor, and unemployment is very high, but the figures are somewhat deceptive. There is an "underground economy" providing plenty of money for a stratum of the population.

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WOMEN

The male-dominated bastions fall

President Ramalho Eanes of Portugal opens his speeches to the nation with the words: "Portugueses... Portuguesas" — Men of Portugal, women of Portugal. He is aware of the increasing importance of Portuguese women in the life of their country and its public affairs. His wife, Dona Manuela, plays a prominent part in public life, not only in the obviously presidential charity activities, but in specific aid to her husband in his public duties.

It was calculated that in the last Portuguese general election in 1979 about 52 per cent of the votes came from women out of a total of about seven million voters. Yes, women are now an openly powerful influence in Portuguese life. They have stormed the professions. They wield considerable influence in politics, and have broken down the barriers of the male-dominated areas of public life. Senhora Maria de Lourdes Pintasilgo became Portugal's first woman prime minister and another barrier fell. In this century, among other outstanding professional pioneers has been the internationally famous bull fighter Conchita Cintron, who combined womanly grace with outstanding toughness in the arena. Later she became a happy wife and mother.

An important labour-oversight organization here, the Commission for Equality in Labour and Employment, recently issued an explanatory pamphlet on the 1979 law of equality for women in the labour market. It is entitled "women's rights to equality in work and employment". The pamphlet emphasizes the September, 1979 law on equality in work between men and women, which was designed to protect women from discrimination in employment on the grounds of their sex and guaranteed them access to the law courts and protection from sanctions if they took their cases to the courts. The commission defines the areas of discrimination training, salaries, promotion, general working conditions and proper knowledge of their legal labour rights. It also defines as illegal any refusal to employ a woman before she is married or has children, or to dismiss her if she becomes pregnant. The only employment which she may rightfully be refused is, according to the commission, "that by which her genetic function as a woman may be affected". The commission is formed of five government representatives, two of whom are

chosen from the Ministry of Labour and two from the Women's Rights Commission, with three trade union representatives and three representing the employers.

There are 22 women members in Portugal's present Chamber of Deputies and, shades of Dr Salazar, Senhora Lourdes Pintasilgo proved to be a lively and industrious figure as one of his later successors as prime minister. Of the women MPs eight belong to the governing Social Democratic Party of Prime Minister, Senhor Pinto Balsemão. The Communist Party also has eight women MPs, but the Socialists and Christian Democrats have only two women members.

The Portuguese National Assembly has a Parliamentary Commission on the Status of Women, but this is considered by feminists to be somewhat inactive. The same thing may be said from the feminist point of view of Portugal's county councils, for out of 305 only four of them have women presidents, and there are only six women judges in the country out of a total of 515.

In 1911 a widowed woman doctor, the head of her family, turned up at the polls and voted. Her claim was that by law only the head of the family could vote and she was the head of the family. The law was then changed emphasizing that this applied only to the male sex. A woman head of the family still could not vote. In 1931, however, women with higher or secondary education were legally allowed to vote, while all males who were of voting age could do so. Last October the Portuguese Parliament passed the latest law against sex discrimination dealing with naturalization of children born both in or outside marriage.

All these improvements do not, of course, mean that the women of Portugal have total equality with men all over the land. The first battle has been won however, and women's education has been improved in concept, fitting them for the wider role the modern woman must play.

The fighting team for women's rights today is basically the Commission for Equality in Work and Employment, and it provides the quiet and efficient spade work to uproot the traditional male outlook on women's role in the civilization of this century.

Jose Shercliff



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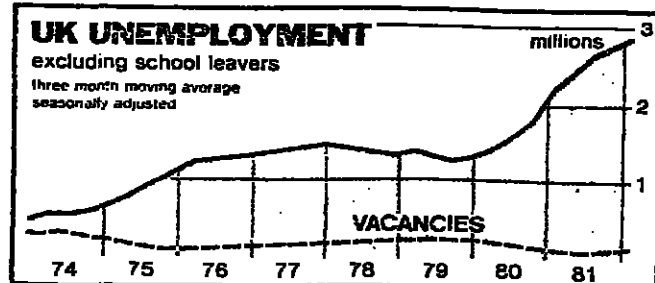
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BUSINESS NEWS

Underlying increase



The underlying level of unemployment went up by just over 7,000 in February, the smallest increase since November 1979. But job vacancies, usually regarded as the most sensitive indicator of the labour market, show no signs of picking up. Only about a third of all jobs available are notified to employment exchanges, but there are 10 people without work for every job available.

Third reading for Bill

The Lloyd's Bill to reform the London insurance market now has to have its third reading in the Commons after passing through the Report stage on Monday. Amendments to the so-called immunity clause were defeated.

Cast has 'more offers'

Mr Frank Narby, chief of the Cast shipping group, said that "further offers" have emerged for the assets of the beleaguered shipping line. Last Friday he announced that a number of serious approaches had been received. US Lines and Thomas National Transport were among those reported to be considering a purchase. Yesterday Mr Narby said that it was "not only possible but likely" that the assets would be sold to more than one party.

Fight for ACC may go to trial

Arrangements agreed in the Appeal Court on Monday to bring finality to the legal battle in the takeover war for Lord Grade's old group, ACC, were put in jeopardy yesterday. The three Appeal judges hearing the case, in which Gerald Ronson's Heron Corporation and other ACC shareholders are being seeking to block Mr Robert Holmes a Court's £36m takeover of ACC, granted a short adjournment for both sides to reconsider their position. Lord Justice Lawton said the "stark reality" was that the case might have to go to a full trial after all.

Shipping order

Shipyards on Humberside and Tyneside have beaten off strong competition to win orders for two 1,000-tonne anchor handling supply vessels from Zapata Offshore Services of Great Yarmouth. The contract is thought to be worth £7m.

MARKET SUMMARY

13 point slump surprise

LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 659.0 down 9.2
FT 100 66.80 down 0.34
All share 324.67 down 3.31
Bargains 21.567

The 13 point slump on Wall Street overnight came as an unwelcome surprise to the market after the previous day's gains, and both equities and gilts drifted lower, with the FT Index at the close down 9.2 at 659.0.

Falls in leading shares ranged from 2p to 8p with 103 shedding 4p to 332p reflecting adverse comment ahead of Thursday's figures. But against the market trend Plessey put on 1p to 365p ahead of Thursday's third quarter figures.

Gilts had a quieter day with profit taking clipping 2½% from long dates and 2% from medium. Shorts opened at 115p, showing the underlying strength of the market. Elsewhere there were lines of

Electricals had GEC at 827p and Thorn EMI 475p both shedding 10p. The insurance sector was one of the few bright spots, stimulated by Commercial Union, up 12p at 144p after much better than expected profits but a 20 per cent earnings rise failed to help Natwest which slipped 7p to 473p.

Engineering group Dowty shed 1p to 110p after a 5m share in two lots were placed in the market at 115p, showing the underlying strength of the market. Elsewhere there were lines of

COMMODITIES

Cash tin prices dived by £440 a tonne yesterday to £8.15 as the buyer who has recently been so influential in the market suspended operations. Recent physical shipments also eased the pressure.

But a three months price of £7,752, down £95, meant the backwardation which has been a persistent feature of the market is still over £400 a tonne. Trading was characterized by heavy borrowing, one company borrowing 2,000 tonnes of metal.

TODAY

Board meetings: Half-yearly: BPM Holdings, British Assets, Crossfields Trust, Elico Holdings, Harrison's Malaysian Estates, Johnson Matthey (9 months), Wedgwood (39 week figures), Flaxie: Carrington Wythe, Child Health Research Investment, Hoover, Marchwell, Moorside Trust, NCR, Rights and Issues Investment Trust.

100,000 Montague Meyer on offer at 68p and 200,000 Grand Metropolitan at 199p. Ductile Steels was up 7p to 124p ahead of figures due shortly. There was a buyer of a small amount of stock, but it was not Caparo Industries, which holds 18 per cent of the equity and has been tipped as a likely bidder.

Mechanical and civil engineering group Braby Leslie was also under the hammer. Starwest Investment Holdings has a 14.5 per cent stake most of which it acquired from ICFI last year, while another 6 per cent stake was bought last week by CHI Securities.

News that Mr Slater and his associates had sold a large slice of their shares in the Belfast-based property group Leganvale Estate gave a 4½p boost to the shares at 33p. Rhone Trust paid 34p a share for a 20 per cent stake, with investment clients of brokers Henry Cooke, Lamsden & Co paying the same price for a further 9.9 per cent, his leaves Mr Slater and his associates controlling 8.9 per cent.

In the wake of the Euroflame suspension, another USM stock to suffer has been Williams Systems. Also brought to the market by Trio Hall Securities, which eased 2p to 12p.

Growing pressure to cut the price of North Sea oil in an effort to end the world glut continues to depress oil shares, with Berkeley Exploration down 22p to 307p and Shell 6p easier at 350p. Equity turnover on February 22 was £126.842m (15,041 bargains).

Garth David

OTHER EXCHANGES

Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index 7,714.56 down 43.0
Hongkong: Hang Seng Index 1,255.33 down 21.69

CURRENCIES

● The dollar rose sharply following yesterday's remarks by the Fed chairman reiterating the need for tight money policies. The pound closed near the day's lows.

LONDON CLOSE

Sterling \$1.8316 down 175 points
Index 91.2 down 0.2
DM 4.3450
Fr 11.0450
Yen 428.00
Dollar Index 112.5 up 0.8
DM 2.3725 up 240 pts
Gold \$351.50 down \$4

FOREIGN MARKETS

● Rates were steadier. The Bank bought £145m of bills outright and £422m for repurchase by the houses on Thursday. The forecast shortage was finally put at £600m.

Domestic rates:
Base rates 14½
3-month interbank 14½-14½
Euro-currency rates:
3-month dollar 14½-14½
3-month DM 10½-10
3-month Fr 15½-15½

Rolls seeks state aid for joint engine project

By Peter Hill, Industrial Editor

Requests for a substantial injection of Government funds to support the development of a new aircraft engine are expected to be made within the next few months by Rolls-Royce, the state-owned aero-engine builder.

R-R is hopeful of reaching agreement by the end of next month with either Pratt and Whitney or General Electric, its principal American rivals, to participate in the joint venture which the British company has established with three large Japanese groups for the development of the RJ 500 engine.

This fuel-efficient engine, on which the existing partners have already spent £40m, is designed to power the aircraft industry's planned 150-seat airliner.

Testing of the first of the RJ 500 engines has now begun. The Japanese partners will be testing their first engine in the next few weeks.

The size of the funds to be sought from the Government will turn on whether or not there is American involvement and also on agreement on the shares which each of the partners will hold in the consortium. Funds, if provided will take the form of launching aid, on which R-R will pay royalties to the Government from future sales.

JOINT VENTURES

Existing aero-engine link-ups include: Rolls-Royce joint venture with Ishikawajima-Harima Heavy Industries and Kawasaki Heavy Industries on the RJ-500.

General Electric collaborative deal with France's Snecma for development of CFM-56 engine for 150-seater.

Rolls-Royce, Motoren und Turbinen Union of West Germany and Fiat Aviazione of Italy engaged in collaborative development of RB-199 for Tornado multi-role combat aircraft.

The new engine could be fitted to the proposed new A 320 manufactured by Airbus Industrie in which British Aerospace has a 20 per cent stake. Another likely customer is America's Boeing, expected to launch a rival to the A 320.

It is Rolls-Royce's belief that multinational joint ventures are the only way in which the engine builders can surmount the enormous costs involved. A new civil engine development programme is likely to cost about £1,100m.

Mr Ralph Robbins, R-R's commercial director, said of the talks with the two American companies yesterday: "Negotiations are continuing. The object is to achieve a situation where by the end of March, we have taken a decision to introduce a third partner."

He continued: "With new engine development costs of between \$1,500m and \$2,000m it is getting beyond the resources of a single manufacturer to take on a new programme on its own."

R-R, in its long-term forecasts, hopes to secure orders for an estimated 5,000 engines in the next 25 years for the RJ 500 series and its family of RB 211 designs.

Mr Norman Lamont, Minister for Industry will later today be questioned by the Select Committee on Industry and Trade about the financing of R-R, which was taken into state ownership 11 years ago following its collapse.

After four years of losses and a £50m cash injection from the Government last year, the company is forecasting a profit next year. It has shed 6,000 jobs over the past 15 months and is planning a similar further reduction, mainly through voluntary redundancy, during 1982.

Volcker warning as US prime rates slip

By John Whitmore

Most leading United States banks cut their prime lending rates from 17 to 16½ per cent yesterday. But at the same time Federal Reserve chairman Mr Paul Volcker urged caution over this week's sharp drop in money market interest rates and once again warned of potential problems ahead.

Mr Volcker told the Congressional Ways and Means Committee that appropriate restraint on the expansion of money and credit continued to be fundamental to restoring price stability.

Although he felt the improving trend in price inflation meant that the present year monetary targets could accommodate a business recovery later this year, he reiterated the need for reducing the Federal deficit in 1983.

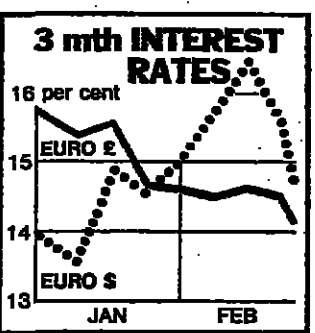
He warned that the Federal deficit could reach \$150,000m in 1983, more than 50 per cent higher than the Administration has predicted.

On the short term situation, Mr Volcker said he would not over-interpret one week's money supply figures. These had showed a larger than expected fall when announced last Friday.

The City was inclined to take a similar view yesterday. After Monday's euphoria, encouraged by the Bank of England's reduction in its money market intervention rates, markets decided to pause for breath.

Although the Bank has been pointing the way to further cut in the general level of interest rates, it remains to be seen whether the commercial banks are prepared to move until they have seen a further set of United States money supply figures.

Domestic money markets should show an easier trend over the next couple of days as funds start to flow back into the system from the repayment of funds to un-



successful applicants for the Amersham International issue.

While the expectation remains that base rates may well be cut to 13½ per cent during the next few days, there is also a feeling that the authorities will not want to see interest rates falling any further just yet.

In particular, the authorities will be watching the performance of sterling. Yesterday, the pound fell 1½ cents to \$1.8315 and its index against a basket of currencies by 0.2 to 91.2. The lower end reflects both the fall in United Kingdom interest rates and the continuing weakness of the oil price.

Markets will be particularly keen to see how other European countries pursue their interest rates now that the EMS realignment is out of the way.

Government securities lost up to 75p of their £2 plus gains of Monday as profit-takers stepped in. Equities lost ground in sympathy with Wall Street, the FT Index closing 9.2 lower at 559.

Economists oppose reflation call

The Government should stick to its monetarist guns and resist the temptation to reflate the economy, say economists at the City University Banking Centre.

Business Editor, page 22

Oil industry forecasts \$28 barrel

Official world oil prices are likely to fall even if Saudi Arabia bows to pressure from its fellow members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries and cuts back its production, some international oil companies now believe.

Sources close to Aramco, the consortium of four American oil majors which lifts nearly all Saudi Arabian crude production, said yesterday that Saudi Arabian output cuts will almost certainly not be enough to defend the official Opec pricing structure—based on a \$34 a barrel benchmark— from being eroded.

Some companies would not be surprised to see the average price of crude oil fall from about \$33 a barrel now to \$28 or even to \$25 a barrel in the face of the present oil glut and persistent downward pressure on oil prices.

There was still no confirmation that the night Opec would be holding an emergency meeting to discuss ways of stopping prices falling, despite pressure from several of the organization's 13 members.

A decision to cut its oil price by another \$2 a barrel in breach of the official Opec price structure was however confirmed by one of its customers, the Italian State-backed oil corporation Agip.

Oil companies also expect that British National Oil Corporation will have to concede a further cut in North Sea oil prices when second quarter contracts come up for negotiation in the next two to three weeks. A barrel cut would cost the Government another £400m a year in lost revenue.

BNOC will retain the right to attend North Sea field operating committees after its exploration and production interests are privatized. The Government says this will help BNOC to trade efficiently.

State group seeks cheap foreign supplies

BL fights steel price rise

By Peter Hill and Edward Townsend

Two loss-making state-owned companies, British Leyland and the British Steel Corporation, are involved in an argument over prices.

BL is opposing price increases introduced in October by the BSC as part of a Europe-wide move by steelmakers to lift prices to restore the EEC steel industry to profitability.

It is scouring the world in search of alternative, cheaper steel supplies. BL is a major customer for BSC's sheet-steel output with the bulk of its supplies produced by the south Wales plants at Port Talbot and Llanwern. About 15 per cent of the corporation's sheet steel is taken by BL for its 500,000 cars a year.

Coordinated by the EEC Commission, European steelmakers introduced a 12½ per cent across-the-board average increase on a wide range of products at the beginning of this year. Prices are scheduled to rise by a further 4½ per cent by this summer.

Steel users throughout the Community have expressed their concern at the steep rise in their basic raw material arguing that amid the continuing recession they will find it virtually impossible to recoup their



Sir Michael Edwards, BL chairman, at cartel operations.

higher costs through increased prices.

So far the new price lists have been accepted but the steel producers recognize that this could be upset. It appears that members of the cartel formed by the European integrated steelmakers have so far not broken ranks in agreeing to supply BL.

Sir Michael Edwards, the BL chairman, has already made clear his annoyance at

the operation of the steelmakers' cartel. He recently told MPs: "We find it incredible that such a course of action should be regarded as a viable road for the long-term recovery of the steel industry, given that it involves a complete suspension of market forces, a collusive agreement to put up prices by upwards of 20 per cent in the car-maker claims not to have so far received any bills at the new prices."

This week, Labour MPs urged the Government to encourage BL to buy British steel. BSC is apparently continuing to invoice BL but the car-maker claims not to have so far received any bills at the new prices.

BL last night confirmed that it was discussing with BSC whose chairman, Mr Ian MacGregor, is a former BL board member, the extent of the increases while at the same time seeking to place contracts with producers outside Europe.

A BL spokesman said: "We are very concerned that BSC is pressing for these increases when our other major suppliers have held their prices or are increasing them only marginally."

MacGregor's money search, page 21



Chairman Robin Leigh-Pemberton (seated with chief executive William Benson): Lower bad debts in 1981.

Another bank record as NatWest makes £494m

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

National Westminster became the second of the big clearing banks to report record profits for 1981. Yesterday it announced an £84m rise to profits of £494m before tax and a 20 per cent rise in shareholders' dividends to 36p gross.

Last week Lloyds Bank also announced best ever profits, up by a third to £366m, and an even bigger rise in dividends. Although there has been no sign that the Government plans another windfall profits tax, the high profits being reported by the banks are likely to provoke controversy and may influence the outcome of the current round of pay talks.

Yesterday the Federation of London Clearing Banks raised its pay offer to 180,000 clerical staff by 1 per cent to 8½ per cent in response to the original claim of 15 per cent. The federation emphasized that this was its final offer.

Much lower bad debt provisions, particularly in the parent bank, were the main reason for National Westminster's profit rise. Mr

Robin Leigh-Pemberton, chairman, said that recoveries of provisions had been high and companies were surviving the recession better than expected.

A breakdown of profit before loan stock interest showed domestic profits up from £258m to £314m, and the international side up from £155m to £172m. Higher profits from Lombard North Central boosted profits from related services from £32m to £70m. Group net interest income rose by only 9 per cent in 1981, partly reflecting lower interest rates but higher commissions and foreign exchange earnings helped boost non-interest income by 29 per cent.

Grindlays Holdings which owns 51 per cent of Grindlays Bank yesterday reported pretax profits up from £33.5m to £34.6m, and an unchanged dividend. Attributable profits fell from £7.4m to £5.3m, after minor losses and a high tax charge reflecting Grindlays' shortage of United Kingdom earnings.

Commercial Union profits fall

By Ronald Pullen

A tough year for insurance markets has led to a sharp drop in profits at Commercial Union, Britain's second largest composite insurance group.

Pre-tax profits fell 21 per cent to £81.7m despite a sizeable increase in premium income from £1,172m to £1,515m.

The results were rather better than expected after the 26 per cent decline at the nine month stage, and helped by a near 10 per cent rise in the group's dividend to shareholders, the shares gained 11p, rising to 143p.

Insurers generally have had a very difficult year because of the recession,

high interest rates and intense competition in insurance markets, and CU has been hit relatively hard because of its growth strategy in the United States, where the competition has been even stiffer.

Overall, CU loss from underwriting insurance business soared from £57.3m to £131.9m, with the United States contributing the largest proportion—£85.6—of this total.

Elsewhere it was almost as bad, with Canada's underwriting loss doubling to £23m despite an increase in rates of more than 30 per cent. Losses in Britain rose from £2.3m to £5.5, with the bad

weather in December costing CU £5m, and indications so far that the January deficit will be even higher.

The underwriting loss was covered by investment income, which rose 34 per cent to £201m, helped by a move into high interest bonds in the United States.

Mr Jack Emms, the retiring chief general manager of CU, said yesterday that the United States had shown some improvement in the final quarter, particularly in the important workers' compensation lines, but he doubted if the group could continue to go against the market trend in 1982.

The right medicine, page 20

Espley-Tyas

Pre-tax profits of £2.23m exceed forecast

Highlights from the Chairman's Statement:

- * Our first year as a public company has been eventful with much progress made in the formation and development of the Group and in the achievement of our defined objectives to increase earnings and net asset value.
- * Pre-tax profits at £2,276,000 compare with a forecast of £1.6m.
- * Earnings per share 10.6p.
- * The proposed dividend of 3.3p per share to be paid (inclusive of associated tax credit) would be equivalent, on the basis of a full year, to 5.6p per share.
- * With work in hand and the quality of our secured property projects, we expect an earnings advance during the current year and the future of the Group is viewed with confidence.

Principal activities of the Group - PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT -

PROPERTY INVESTMENT - CONSTRUCTION - through key subsidiaries:

- ESLEY-TYAS PROPERTIES LTD. - ESLEY-TYAS CONSTRUCTION GROUP LTD.

- MANSTON DEVELOPMENT GROUP LTD. - ESLEY-TYAS OVERSEAS LTD.

Copies of the Report & Accounts containing the Chairman's Statement in full and a review of the Group's activities are available from: J. M. O'Connor, Esq., Espley-Tyas Property Group plc, Elizabeth House, 43, Calthorpe Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 1TS.

Espley-Tyas Property Group plc

Board meetings: Half-yearly: BPM Holdings, British Assets, Crossfields Trust, Elico Holdings, Harrison's Malaysian Estates, Johnson Matthey (9 months), Wedgwood (39 week figures), Flaxie: Carrington Wythe, Child Health Research Investment, Hoover, Marchwell, Moorside Trust, NCR, Rights and Issues Investment Trust.

Domestic rates:
Base rates 14½
3-month interbank 14½-14½
Euro-currency rates:
3-month dollar 14½-14½
3-month DM 10½-10
3-month Fr 15½-15½

● Rates were steadier. The Bank bought £145m of bills outright and £422m for repurchase by the houses on Thursday. The forecast shortage was finally put at £600m.

Domestic rates:
Base rates 14½
3-month interbank 14½-14½
Euro-currency rates:
3-month dollar 14½-14½
3-month DM 10½-10
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3-month Fr 15½-15½

BUSINESS NEWS/FOCUS AND COMMENT

PEOPLE

Girls cut a dash in overalls

There was an unlikely fashion show in Mayfair yesterday when Laurie Quick presented his just Women collection. Quick comes from neither London, Paris or Rome but from Henley-on-Thames, where he is managing director of an industrial clothing hire group called Spring Grove Services.

So far, Quick has specialised in overalls for men. Yesterday, however, he was showing off not only overalls for women but skirts, dresses and tabards for the working girl albeit mostly in shades of that boyish colour, blue.

But even Quick quailed at the idea of designing the clothes himself: for that he called in an all-girl team headed by his main supplier, Heather Ridgeway, managing director of Wessex Textiles in Taunton.

Quick says his market research shows women workers are more likely than men to welcome uniform, since it iron out that daily problem of what to wear for work.

Hurry! Hurry! Brokers Savory Mills still have a few seats for clients who have nothing better to do on Budget day than attend their teach-in on insurance at the Barber Surgeon's Hall just off London Wall. Apart from ex-Royal Insurance partner Brian Cordery, Savory will field Mark Weinberg of Hambros Life, Mike Brown of the Company Pensions Information Centre, and Tony Ratcliffe of Eagle Star. The first speaker will be on his feet at 10am. Savory is specialising in insurance before anyone else — in 1918 and want once again to be number 1.

Insurance man's double life



Clifford Bowen Jones

For someone who is paid to be both silent and eloquent, Clifford Bowen Jones is enjoying a most valuable success. A part-time professional actor and full-time insurance representative, he has just become the first Briton to win an International Quality Award for outstanding sales success from the American-based Life Insurance Marketing and Research Association.

With business worth about £8m, and more than 3,000 clients, he has written more policies than anyone else in the 111-year history of the Confederation Life Insurance Company.

In his early 60s, CB has also played as surgeon, councillor and other upstanding citizens in television serials such as Muck and Brass and Crossroads. He says: "Appearance and manner count in both jobs..."

Hurd-pressed managers no longer find the time to attend residential courses. But *Life*, the Management College, as it describes itself, has come up with an answer. Using cassettes, video and audio cassettes, the college is launching a home study management training scheme to degree level.



"Believe me Mrs Wilson — I don't like the proposed gas prices either. But showing your final demand out again won't help anyone."

Peter Wainwright

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Mr S. H. Allott has been appointed chief executive of Gresham Life Assurance Society and AMEV Life Assurance with effect from April 1. He will succeed Mr J. S. Leighton who will relinquish his executive duties. Mr Leighton will remain on the boards of both companies.

Mr Roger T. Elmthirst has been appointed deputy managing director of Charterhouse Corporate Investments, which is responsible for the Charterhouse Group's wholly-owned investments.

American action could upset steel industry finances

Will Mr MacGregor come back for more money?

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Industry, was rather less than bullish earlier this week when he was questioned about the realism of the British Steel Corporation's objective of breaking even by the end of the 1982-83 financial year.

Conservative back-benchers are once again expressing anxiety about the corporation's ability to achieve the objectives set by its chairman, Mr Ian MacGregor (and his controversial transfer payment worth potentially £1.8m will be partially based.) That is to say that Mr MacGregor will be knocking on Mr Jenkin's door asking for yet more money to keep the corporation going.

While Mr Jenkin and his back-bench colleagues may have reservations about BSC's ability to shake off its reputation for being the largest single recipient of state cash, there is a strong belief among the higher echelons of the corporation that the target can be attained.

What is worrying the back-benchers, and by inference Mr Jenkin (who is anxious to reduce the Department of Industry's disbursements to public sector corporations in order to concentrate more on priming the industries of the future) is that as so often in the past the corporation's estimates and forecasts will turn out to be wrong.

It has to be said that under Mr MacGregor's guidance the BSC has made quite dramatic strides. The stunning that was identified by his predecessor, Sir Charles Villiers as vitally necessary, has been carried through to a considerable degree.

The corporation's top heavy structure has been streamlined, management and men have been motivated to a degree which less than three years ago would have been thought impossible. Productivity has risen dramatically — Llanwern is a shining example — and compared with some of the best in Europe — and quality, delivery and confidence have improved out of all recognition. MacGregor was issued with a challenge. He accepted it and the result so far have been very encouraging.

All the improvements have been secured at a time of crisis for the steel industry in Europe. The continent has been completely out of steel and competition for

business has been cut-throat, leading to outrageous price cutting, covertly and sometimes even overtly encouraged through Government subsidies by virtually every EEC member state.

By any standards the performance of the BSC in transforming itself — albeit with massive transfusions from the Exchequer, has been remarkable.

Throughout this critical period Mr MacGregor has said that it is his intention to maintain the present plant configuration and to stabilise capacity at around 14.4m tonnes.

The BSC chairman has continued to exude a cautious optimism that the targets will be met, that when he leaves the corporation — in its slimmed-down form aided by some privatisation — it will be in a much more robust state than when he joined. But being a canny Scot and a shrewd politician, he has been careful in his dealings with Whitehall to

cover all eventualities, or at least most.

When he submitted his corporate plan for 1982-83 last December, he was careful to warn ministers that he would claim the right to modify the forecasts and objectives in the light of changed circumstances. For example that plan was submitted at a time when the American steel companies were threatening to file anti-dumping suits against steel of European steel to the American market.

It was also some weeks in advance of the onset of January's bad weather which cost the corporation about £100m in lost production and before the recent rail strikes.

Mr Jenkin pondered the report against the backdrop of considerable uncertainty as to whether the

round of price increases throughout Europe, co-ordinated by the EEC Commission and due to be introduced at the beginning of this year, would be accepted by consumers.

So far, with some exceptions, and despite a predictable outcry from the steel industry's customers, the new price lists have held up in the market place.

But can the price regime continue to hold and to what extent is it likely to be undermined by the action taken by the Reagan Administration to curb European steel imports? The two are inextricably linked.

Even without all the imperious and uncertainties there had been a basic disagreement over the funds which the BSC needed for 1982-83. In its anxiety to curb the public sector borrowing requirement, the Government, in its White Paper on public spending, fixed a provisional External Financing Limit (EFL) for the BSC of £350m for the next year.

Despite the improvement in financial performance (first losses in 1981-82 down to £195m pre-tax, compared with a whopping deficit for 1980-81 of £665m), Mr MacGregor's plan was pitching for £70m-£80m above the level. Since then circumstances have indeed changed.

For a start the American steelmakers have filed their legal suits and earlier this month the International Commission (ITC) decided that it would go ahead with 38 out of 92 unfair pricing cases which had been filed against European producers in nine countries. Six of them are against the BSC.

In the financial year which ends next month, the BSC expects to ship between 300,000 and 400,000 tonnes of steel to American customers and the hope for next year was that this year level would be exceeded by at least a further 100,000 tonnes. The commission is still locked in a diplomatic battle with the American authorities: it says that it is the EEC's intention to force the USA to stick to the Agreement on Tariffs and Trade involving the steel dispute.

But the effect of the ITC decision to go ahead with its investigations coupled with the price of steel in the weather has Mr MacGregor and his cohorts carrying out

those who left after completing the fifth year, about half are still unemployed.

The fact is that the syllabus at Matthew Murray covering subjects such as how to claim benefit, and how to use "work free" time. Ducie High School, in Manchester's Moss Side, is a mixed comprehensive with about 500 pupils, who do one period a week on careers when they get into the fourth form.

Of last year's leavers, about 10 per cent have found work and another 60 per cent are in further education or Youth Opportunity Schemes. In an area like this where the principal employers — the local authority, construction industry and city centre commerce — are cutting back, the principal problem for the careers teacher is not to educate the children on the choices available, but to convince them that there is any work at all.

Miss Margaret Ogilvy, careers teacher, says: "We started an experiment recently in posting details of jobs supplied by the careers service, on our notice board. At first the children kept coming up to me and asking whether they were real."

"A lot of my job is chivvying people along — getting them to write letters and fill in forms for further education, for example."

While they would advise on the qualifications required for a particular career, and might advise on the area in which it would be sensible to concentrate, none of these teachers was prepared to make a decision. For a significant part in making career decisions themselves.

They acknowledge the technological revolution, notably in an emphasis on the value of mathematics as one of a "core" of essential subjects for the curriculum — but decline to speculate on its implications on the marketability of the children.

However unhelpful this appears in the short term, in the longer run it is probably a wise decision. For one thing technology will change for another the concept of life time's career is vanishing.

What is worrying the Government is that as so often in the past the Corporation's estimate and forecasts will turn out to be wrong.



Mr Ian MacGregor: a canny Scot who keeps his options open

a thorough re-assessment of plans drawn up and submitted to the Government three months ago.

It is already clear that the corporation will be seeking rather more than the disputed £70m to £80m above the provisional EFL when it submits its request within the next few weeks. Above all Mr MacGregor believes that it is vital that the BSC maintains a respectable level of capital investment to ensure quality and efficiency.

But it is the uncertainty over the future of the co-ordinated price movement in Europe which casts a particularly dark shadow over the BSC's hopes and aspirations. On the basis of the assessments made so far, the corporation calculates that American curbs could affect about 20 per cent of its exports to the United States. That is worrying but not fatal.

The much bigger worry is that American curbs could shut out around 2 million tonnes of European steel which would be looking for a market. The fear is that European eyes would once more be directed across the Channel to British customers.

So where does that put the cartel's commitment to co-ordinate price increases under a regime of Commission-imposed quotas on

production? Informally, the members of Eurofer, which effectively form a producers' cartel, have agreed that it will be essential to maintain the club for at least two more years beyond the present expiry date this July. So far the pact does not however have the approval of the state-owned sector of the Italian steel industry.

At the present the Italians are withholding their support. Other EEC steel producers whose national governments may for political reasons decide that it may be judicious to truncate Dumas' Three Musketeers pledge to a more simple "all for one" are committed to a phased programme of removing all steel industry state aids and subventions.

There is edginess in the steel market. There are reports that price-cutting is taking place with one large Eurofer steelmaker alleged to be offering a derivative of wire rod at 20 per cent below the official price.

The price regime remains precariously balanced. If it topples it will throw the market into confusion and it is the market which will largely determine BSC's further progress towards its financial goals.

Peter Hill

Business Editor

Critical days for tin market

Over the next three days we will see whether the steel taken by the authorities of the London Metal Exchange to avert a possible crisis on the tin market have been successful. Traders have been holding their breath as the mysterious buyer stays his hand and allows the cash price to sink. By all accounts, most traders who went short have been able to square their positions.

But for those still suffering from what the market copy calls a technical tightness, the authorities have provided two escape routes. LME members have promised to lend tin to those needing to cover positions, and the indications are that one or two firms have made use of this opportunity. The other safety valve is the £120 premium.

For some shorts it may make sense to pay the premium. If the cash price continues to fall it might be cheaper to pay the premium for a few days and then buy the tin needed to cover themselves. Either way, the authorities appear confident that no embarrassing crashes are in the offing.

Nevertheless, the fundamental questions of who has been buying and why remain unresolved. In one sense the LME's task has been made easier by the buyer's scrupulous adherence to the rules. But by the same token, this has made it harder to flush out the identity or purpose of the operator. Assuming that the next few days pass relatively quietly, the market will still have to convince itself that it is not dominated by a single powerful presence.

Wall Street Looking sick

Share prices on Wall Street are looking decidedly sick. The rate cuts and strong hints from Treasury Secretary Donald Regan that interest rates could touch 13 or 14 per cent within the next two or three months. Why?

The first answer is that investors see themselves as each-way losers. The credibility gap between Wall Street and the White House over control of the federal budget deficit is wider than ever. And that means either that interest rates will bound upwards again sooner or later, or, if the President is eventually forced into further public spending cuts or backtracking on his tax-cutting

policies, that the corporate sector will continue to feel the squeeze well into 1983.

There is in any case some doubt as to just how much encouragement it is prudent to take from a single week of better-than-expected money supply figures. In spite of the relief at last week's money numbers, markets remain to be convinced that the money supply will not start to gallop away during March.

Over and above this, money has been pouring into the alternative investment instruments of the moment — zero coupon bonds, in spite of the uncertainties over their tax treatment, and financial futures.

And for those looking for more conventional homes for their money, Triple A bonds returning around 15 per cent must look a more attractive bet so long as there is still so much talk of share prices moving into a new bear phase.

NatWest Provisions cut

A huge and unexpected improvement in bad debt provisions explains virtually all the rise in National Westminster's 1981 profits from £410m to £444m. It was a fifth, compared with the one-third increase chalked up by Lloyd's last week.

The fall in bad debt provisions has happened at the point when there was some increase on the international side and among the subsidiaries — with the result that group provisions have tumbled from £120m to £42m. Naturally, NatWest's contemporaneous dismissals the suggestion that to escape the windfall profits tax it massaged down-profits last year by bumping up provisions and is now writing it back.

The explanation given is simply that there has been a bunching of recoveries of provisions made in earlier years and the corporate sector has been healthier than expected. The puzzling thing is that NatWest's experience here is so different from that of Lloyd's whose bad debt provisions — admittedly influenced by trouble areas like Poland — rose by 25 per cent in 1981. The contrasting trends can only lend weight to the view that the banks' approach to bad debt provisions is far from uniform and can make comparisons misleading.

When enthusiasm and hope are just the job

Careers guidance in secondary schools used to be, in the words of Miss Marie Fair, newly appointed headmistress of Bradford's St Joseph's College, something of a Cinderella subject. But not any more. According to Miss Fair, deputy heads and even heads are getting involved in careers work.

But what is even the most high powered of teams to say to the 16, 17 and 18-year-olds facing the hunt for a job knowing that at least three million other people, most of them older, more experienced and better qualified, are doing likewise?

They are going to tell them to take a strongly positive approach. This emerged quite clearly from a straw poll of careers teachers conducted last week. Given that few youngsters of this age will be able to enrol to leave home, their opportunities will inevitably be restricted to whatever is available locally. What teachers are doing is encouraging them to decide what they want as early as possible and then to pursue it with determination.

They are being encouraged to come back into the sixth form if they do not succeed first time round. There they will learn new skills, in preparation for their next try.

That resolute optimism should be a prominent characteristic of career teachers is not perhaps surprising: what is more surprising is how often it seems to be justified.

Take the case of St Joseph's College. It is a girls' comprehensive, a former direct grant school with a traditionally strong sixth form, in an area in the West Riding which has been badly hit by the decline of the textile industry. About three-quarters of the fifth formers stay on, and the numbers are expected to rise.

More than half of the sixth formers are studying for A levels; the rest are topping up O level or CSE, or going in for some form of vocational or semi-vocational training, such as the City & Guilds Certificate in Community Care.

Miss Fair is in favour of

this: "Even if all they get out of it is increased self esteem it's worth it," she says.

Miss Fair knows of about 20 students still unemployed after completing their fifth year of secondary education last year. Of a similar number who left the sixth form, only two are on the dole.

At Tamar High School, Plymouth, the climate is equally positive and the conditioning starts early.

AT WORK: CAREERS COUNSELLING

By Adrienne Gleeson

Careers guidance is already "a vital part of the curriculum" in the third year, according to headmaster Mr Frederick Hill. He believes this is the stage at which important decisions must be made about examination subjects. In the fourth year, two periods a week are devoted to the subject, with a wide range of people coming in to talk about jobs as varied as military police and retail management.

One or two have dropped out recently, Mr Hill says, and he thinks this is ominous. By the time he sees the pupils on an individual basis, early in the middle term of their fifth year, he believes that 90 per cent know what they want to do.

At Matthew Murray High School in Leeds careers are also part of the curriculum from the age of 13 onwards. Like Mr Hill, Mrs Sheila Wagstaff, who is in charge of careers guidance, thinks that her job at this stage is to open the children's horizons, to persuade them to be more flexible, and to impart some personal and social skills.

Most students in the sixth form last year obtained employment or went on to higher education though Mrs Wagstaff acknowledges that those who joined the non-academic stream "have tended to drift away during the course of the year, when they have found employment". Of

Grindlays Holdings p.l.c.

The Board of Grindlays Holdings p.l.c. has recommended a final dividend for the year ended 31st December, 1981 of 11.5% net (1980 11.5% making a total for the year of 16.5% (1980 16.5%) equivalent to 4.125p per share (1980 4.125p per share).

51 per cent of the shares of Grindlays Bank p.l.c. are held by Grindlays Holdings which is quoted on The Stock Exchange, London. 49 per cent of the shares are owned by Citibank N.A., New York.

Grindlays

Building the business on a stronger capital base

In his statement to shareholders the Chairman, Mr. Nigel Robson, says:

"A major redeployment of capital resources is in hand through the planned sale of the two Hong Kong subsidiaries, Grindlays Dao Hong Bank and Grindlays Finance; this means added strength and the opportunity of making an improved allocation of the group's capital resources and a more even expansion of business in the United Kingdom and elsewhere in the world."

In the Pacific Basin the Grindlays Bank Group will continue to have a strong presence through its merchant banking subsidiary, Grindlays Asia Limited, in Hong Kong and its branches and offices in Australia, Japan, Korea, Singapore, Taiwan, Indonesia and Malaysia.

In February 1982 the International Merchant Banking Division based in London was established to develop and provide a common focus for the Group's specialist and cross border services.

Group profits for 1981 before tax were £24.5 million (1980 £33.7 million).
Profits attributable to shareholders were £10.3 million (1980 £14.3 million).
Profits retained for the year 1981 were £7.6 million (1980 £11.5).
Deposits rose by 17% to £4248 million and Advances by 33% to £2644 million.

Grindlays Bank Group

	1981 audited £m	1981* adjusted £m	1980 £m
Assets	4464	4410	3827
Liabilities	4270	4180	3648
Total capital resources of which share capital & reserves	194	230	179
	132	168	126

*To reflect the proposed sale of Grindlays Dao Hong Bank and Grindlays Finance.



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Secretarial skills in English and French, with a knowledge of German. The ideal candidate will be a native speaker of French, with a minimum of 5 years' experience in a secretarial capacity. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office, including the preparation of correspondence, the management of the filing system, and the coordination of the office staff.

For further details, please contact: **DWIGHT WHITE ASSOCIATES LTD.** (01-242 2242)

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Residential Property by Baron Phillips

A share of sun, sand and scuba



Anse Chastanet beach — alongside which the new time share development will be built.

Bumping your way down a typical St. Lucia road at night is a pool introduction to the lush Caribbean island. But the hour so it took us to get from the international airport to Anse Chastanet — a distance of less than 30 miles — in the south west of the island was worth it the next morning when the curtains were pulled back the curtain of darkness to reveal dense banana plantations, swaying coconut trees and masses of dramatically coloured bougainvillea.

Overlooking what must be one of the island's prettiest bays, with spectacular views of St. Lucia's famous Pitons, the Anse Chastanet Hotel close to the rambling town of Soufriere is expanding into the time-sharing business.

In the next few weeks work is starting on the first phase in a new development right on the beach. The scheme is being designed in the shape of a lazy S so that each unit has a view of the sea. It is expected to be complete in about six months. Development is being managed by two expatriate Canadians Mr Nick Trobitch and Mr Wayne Brown. It is being regarded as an integral part of the hotel in management terms and will come under the control of the Anse Chastanet Beach team headed by Mr Peter Pietruszka and his wife Rachel.

The setting must be close to one's concept of a typical tropical island. It will be possible to take a short stroll and fall into the warm Caribbean sea for a quick dip before breakfast. Unlike most timesharing schemes Anse Chastanet will operate a system of floating weeks for particular times of the year with three different price structures. The most expensive is for the two high season periods in winter and summer with cheaper "shoulder" segments which roughly cover our spring and autumn seasons.

At the top of the range a

week in a two bedroom unit will cost US\$8,100 while the cheapest is about \$4,800. The property is held on a 35-year lease and although your weeks are not fixed each year it is up to you to decide which time is the most convenient and then book no more than a year in advance.

For the casual British buyer St. Lucia and the Caribbean general has one distinct disadvantage — the length of time it takes to get there. Our British Airways flight took about 12 hours stopping off at Barbados and Antigua. The other scheduled airline which flies to the island is British West Indian Airlines via Barbados.

Certainly the island is more than ample compensation for the time spent in the air. A BA Jumbo jet. But British buyers who can afford to buy two weeks in the winter must weigh up the disadvantage of the 12 hour flights against the sheer delight of relaxing on a Caribbean beach.

The scheme, which is being marketed in this country by Asset International, is really aimed at people who want to relax for a week or two. Anse Chastanet and neighbouring

Soufriere is not geared to those looking for a wild time. In fact most people get up early and are in bed by 10.30 pm. Night life can be found in the capital Castries but that is an hour's drive away on some of the worst roads I have experienced.

Anse Chastanet is for people who want to enjoy a beach warmed by a winter sun, which pushes the temperatures into the low 80s even in January, and sip and exotic cocktail such as a Carib Kiss or a Camilla's Voodoo. But for people who like the water then Anse Chastanet offers some of the best snorkelling and scuba diving in the entire Caribbean.

For the really keen, resort courses in scuba diving are offered by the hotel's resident instructor, a local-born American, Mr Harold Kopf. His technique is so gentle that even the most faint-hearted, myself included, suddenly discover a whole new world a few feet under the ocean's surface.

The hotel is expanding its diving facilities, introducing sailboards and rebuilding its tennis court which will be sited

behind the new time sharing units. Although the units will be self catering the beach restaurant will be open in the evenings as well as lunch time, or residents will be able to use the main hotel dining room. And a few minutes drive away is one of the island's best restaurants, the Hummingbird run by an Englishman called Paul and his girlfriend Joyce.

Apart from the two bedroom units the scheme will offer one bedroom cottages available for \$7,300 a week in the winter high season to \$3,900 a week in the summer season and \$3,100 in the shoulder weeks. At the same time Anse Chastanet is providing one room gazebos for \$4,600 a week in the high season or \$2,400 a week in the low.

As with all time sharing developments there is an annual service charge. For this year it is expected to be \$200 a week, for a two bedroom unit, \$175 a week for the one bedroom cottages and \$150 for a gazebo.

Property on the island is far from cheap because many of the basic materials have to be imported. Two bedroom, two bathroom properties around Soufriere are selling for about \$75,000 but if you want particular designs incorporated then the final price is likely to be much higher.

There is little doubt the island makes an ideal retirement home but one must be careful about choosing the right location. Up in the hills it can get quite cold at night and you will need some alternative forms of heating other than the sun. But near the shore it is warm year round.

The Anse Chastanet scheme is part of the Resorts Condominium International register of time sharing — which operates an international exchange scheme. This means that anybody with, say, a time share in a Spanish villa, will be able to exchange it for two weeks in St. Lucia.

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GIRL. Wanting to share
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SW14. 3rd p.m. person 50-
60, 5' 10", 150 lbs. 189-1125
x 276 2097 after 7 p.m.
L.W. 11-12-68
practically
bath, own room.
3002 1/2
HIGHGATE - Grad girt.
room. Mixed nation, job.
bath, \$100 p.w.
CHINA - Attractive room
bath, \$50 p.w.
W.M. - Own room, bath, \$50 p.w.
share large lux flat, 235
W. 11-12-68
W.M. - Own room, bath, \$50
share kit, bath, lounge etc.
bath, \$50 p.w.
p.w. 11-85-84 (arabian)
3002 1/2
COVENT GARDEN - 235
Girt. Own small room, bath,
bath, \$50 p.w.
1409 G Times
W.M. - Own room, bath, \$50
room \$35 p.w. 534 x 11-85
room \$35 p.w. 534 x 11-85.

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Cabinet considers prolonging the closed shop

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Workers caught in a closed shop they dislike face a delay of up to two and a half years before they can get rid of compulsory trade union membership. It became clear yesterday that the Government may not act in its present term of office and wait until mid-1984 before forcing employers and unions to hold ballots testing support for the closed shop.

This is the timetable for introducing obligatory votes on union membership agreements envisaged by Mr Norman Tebbit, the Secretary of State for Employment.

Some senior Cabinet members, however, are uneasy about the long delay and could compel Mr Tebbit to allow the voice of the shop floor to be heard much sooner.

Speaking in London at a conference on the Employment Bill, organized by the Industrial Society, Mr Tebbit said: "I have not decided yet how soon after the royal assent the first ballot will be held. It is possible that we may go for a two rather than a one-year period." Royal assent to the Bill, which is going through Parliament, is not expected before July.

He told managers, trade unionists and employers attending the conference: "I shall of course give full weight to your views on this before coming to a decision."

Mr Tebbit, who was criticized

Co-op bans fox hunting within its domain

By Hugh Clayton

The Co-operative movement is to ban hunting on its farmland from June. The Co-op, with about 38,000 acres, is the largest single owner of farmland in the private sector and its action will threaten more than a tenth of the 200 packs of hounds kept in Britain.

The decision is an important symbolic victory in the long and usually fruitless campaign by opponents of hunting to persuade local authorities and other large landowners to ban hounds from their property.

The ban brings to a successful conclusion a year of campaigning inside the Co-op by the League Against Cruel Sports, which financed a group called Co-operators Against Blood Sports. It called on members of Co-operative retail societies to urge their leaders to ban hunts.

Mr Richard Course, executive director of the league, said: "This is absolutely splendid. For a long time we made representations to the Co-op, which quite frankly got us nowhere." The league has bought a total of 2,000 acres of land in the west of England, on which it imposes hunting bans.

The Masters of Foxhounds Association called the ban "a more step towards damaging the fabric of country life." It said that the Co-op was taking arbitrary action against farmers, who included its suppliers and who were often keen hunt supporters.

Frank Johnson in the Commons

Giving Mr Skinner private hell

A Conservative back-bencher yesterday accused Mr Dennis Skinner's election agent of having bought his own council house.

"We were all stunned. It was an imputation of blasphemy second only to a suggestion that Mr Skinner himself could be capable of making so base a purchase. But it was awful enough. For here was an accusation that Mr Skinner (Bolton, Lab), spiritual leader of Britain's millions of extreme, fundamentalist, proletarian, was harbouring close to his person, indeed in his very entourage, someone who had availed himself of Conservative wider home ownership legislation."

The wretch who made the charge was Mr John Hiddle (Lancashire and Tamworth, C). He did so in the guise of a question to the Prime Minister. For Mr Skinner was present, seated in the place below the gangway from which he conducted his years of struggle against all bourgeois forms of government.

Mr Hiddle made his accusation against someone who is a Member of Parliament for Bolsover, a Conservative seat, and a political agent."

The Tory benches broke into cheers at this amazing news. Mr Skinner suddenly sat upright, chin held high—the whole effect being one of affronted dignity probably not seen in public life since the death of Queen Victoria. He rose, as Mr Michael Foot rose at the same time. The Speaker called Mr Foot. Mr Skinner remained standing. He remonstrated with the Chair, though in the noise it was impossible to hear his words.

The Speaker told him that the Question Time had only just begun, the implication being that once Mr Foot had spoken Mr Skinner would shortly have an opportunity to defend himself against a charge which, if left unanswered, would destroy the faith of Mr Skinner's humble followers throughout the length and breadth of Bolsover and even further.

But Mr Skinner could not possibly wait that long. Eventually, his words reached us. It was as if he was appealing to us in the gallery to send remonstrance as soon as the possible to the demoralized masses.

"I haven't got an agent," he shouted.

He resumed his seat. Mr Foot began to put some rather tedious questions about the budget. Mr Skinner shouted to him across the gangway to refute the awful charge. "I am sure my hon friend can look after himself," Mr Foot inadequately commented.

Eventually, from the Chair, came the cry of "Mr Dennis Skinner." Mr Skinner rose once more. Drawing on all his authority, he ruled: "As the Prime Minister aware that I haven't got an agent and that the person referred to is no longer on the executive of the Bolsover constituency Labour Party."

From Mr Skinner's words—and like all great syntacticians he tends to speak in parables—it was clear that there had been someone who had made an evil purchase, someone (darkly described as "the person referred to") with a recalcitrant desire for, say, his own chimney door, bell or private ownership of plastic in his garden. But he was no longer on the executive. What a wealth of damnation was contained in those simple words.

Mention of which brings one to Mr Frank Haynes (Ashfield, Lab) who, on a point of order, later reminded the Speaker that the Chair had last week rebuked him for using the term "What the hell?"

In that case, asked Mr Haynes, who had not the Speaker rebuked a Tory who had said that Western European countries involved in the Siberian gas pipeline had "sold their souls to the devil?" The Speaker simply repeated that references to trips to hell were not approved of by him—or presumably by Him.

Mention of hell led naturally to the committee stage of the Canada Bill. Danes, author of the standard guide book to hell, missed a trick by not including in one of the innermost circles those whose punishment was to listen to all eternity to Mr Enoch Powell explaining during the committee stage why the Canada Bill was a paradoxical absurdity.

Mr Powell and the all-party opponents of the Bill have mounted a filibuster. Their aim is to keep the rest of eternity. There will therefore be a more detailed account in this column later in eternity.

Jobless total down by 25,000

Continued from page 1
percent, or nearly one in four) is the worst hit region in the United Kingdom, followed by Wales and the North of England. Best off is London, where unemployment is only 8.5 percent.

Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment, said that he was encouraged by the slowdown in the rate of increase in unemployment.

With other regions almost uniformly hostile to the Government, the TUC-Labour liaison committee saying that the Government should change course or resign, and the CBI's Director General Sir Terence Peckert, calling for a cut in the National Insurance surcharge.

The figures suggest that there will be no big increase in the overall total of unemployed between now and

Easter, when the next generation of school leavers comes on to the market.

Government policies have been heavily focused in recent months on finding ways of keeping school leavers out of the deep queues by a combination of job subsidies, special training places and further education.

But a problem which is beginning to become more important is that of the long-term unemployed. There are now more than 900,000 people who have been out of work for more than a year, and internal Manpower Services Commission forecasts suggest the total will top a million by July.

The figures for the long-term unemployed and the total jobless understate the true scale of the problem. Special measures keep the total down by between 325,000 and 350,000,

and many other workers do not register because they have given up hope.

Church leaders yesterday joined forces in a campaign calling for positive action against unemployment in Britain.

"Unemployment has become a growing evil of frightening proportions," the Rev Paul Brett, a member of the Church Action with the Unemployed campaign committee, said. The campaign calls for church people to sponsor training and work experience schemes and to help create new jobs.

About 10 "Right to Work" demonstrators invaded Mr Tebbit's Whitehall office to protest about unemployment yesterday.

The police were called, and the demonstrators peacefully removed. Mr Tebbit was at the House of Commons.

Restoring Mona Lisa's smile

Mona Lisa, a rare baby gibbon found during a passenger's holiday, was being nursed back to health at Heathrow yesterday by a team of girls at the airport quarantine centre.

Mona Lisa (above), about six weeks old and worth up to £7,000, is a black Siamang gibbon. She was in the bag of a Dutch male passenger as he passed through Heathrow from Thailand bound for Spain. She was declared to Customs. The 10-inch high baby, weighing 350 grammes, is one of an endangered species.

Mr Ken King, the quarantine station manager, said he was appalled by the way the gibbon had been treated and that action under the Endangered Species Act and the Welfare of Animals Regulations would probably be taken against the owner, who has since flown to Malaga. Mr King said: "The gibbon was far too young to have been taken from its mother. They should not be separated for two years."

When Mona Lisa is fit to travel, in one or two days' time, she will be transferred to Twycross Zoo.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements
The Queen attends premiere of "Absence of Malice", in aid of the Italian Hospital, Odeon, Leicester Square 8.
The Duchess of Kent, Chancellor of Leeds University, visits "The University and Industry" exhibition, Clothworkers' Hall, Mincing Lane, London 6.

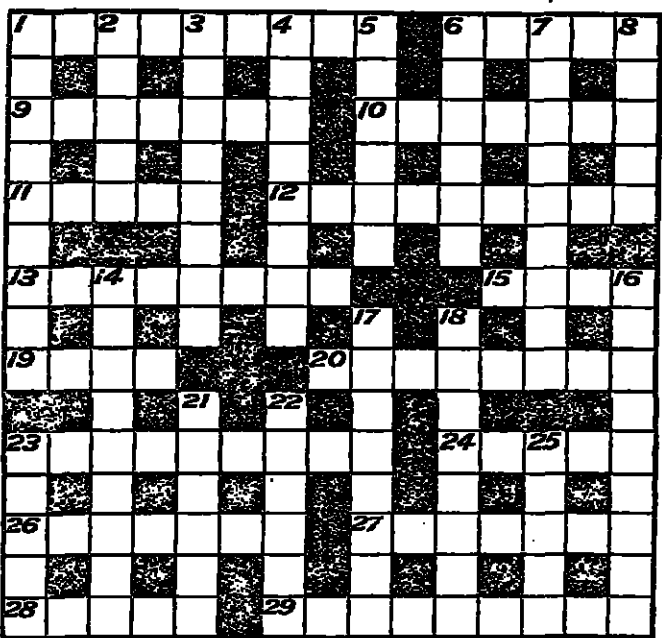
Talks, lectures
Health risks and the environment, by Prof J. T. Davies, Large Lecture Theatre, Poynding Building, Birmingham University, 11.

The Gulbenkian Museum of Oriental Art, by John Ruffie, Whitworth Art Gallery, University of Manchester, Whitworth Park, Manchester, 12.15.

Music
Recital by Joy Baker (mezzo soprano) and Katherine Rolleston (piano), Bourne Hall, Ewell, 1.10.
Concert, Northern Sinfonia of England, with Natalia Gutman (cello), City Hall, Newcastle, 7.45.
Concert, Orchestra da Camera, Civic Hall, Bedford, 7.30.

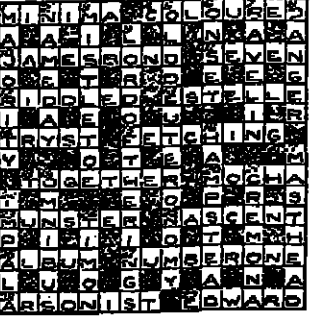
Exhibitions in progress
Poussin: Sacraments and Bacchanals—paintings and drawings

The Times Crossword Puzzle No. 15,764



- ACROSS
- It travels by air—or rail (9).
 - This flower shed (5).
 - Huge numbers surround a night-flier (7).
 - Long-suffering theatre-goer, perhaps (7).
 - Magnificent song—or the reverse (5).
 - Bloomer of one who preferred his own view (9).
 - Wonders if the distances include reversing car (8).
 - Something on coat or jumper (4).
 - Impossible without energy? (2,2).
 - Necessarily put down by the police (3).
 - Not only a marine vessel (9).
 - Bore was a candidate? (5).
 - Corrects the name of a gas (7).
 - Red Indian dog swallows wildcat (7).
 - 10 may be out of these varieties (5).
 - Sir Roger's home, periodically (9).
- DOWN
- One interested in shooting stars? (9).
 - Adds spirit to my game (5).
 - Old monument for poor Mr Cole above the church (8).
 - Pale with study of Maugham's work (6).
 - Send out drunken toper about ten (6).
 - Marshall also breaks bread, as he put it (6).
 - Official rate change more certain to follow (9).
 - Europeans served at court, we hear? (5).
 - Soldier about to take part in watch (9).
 - Welsh hero makes grand advance to debtor (9).
 - Sensational development connected with cephalopod (8).
 - Branch not on fire (6).
 - Cross the mountains thus to avoid the town (6).
 - Fellow upper good man—breaks commandment (6).
 - The ruling type of novelist (5).
 - Musicians to form a crew? (5).

Solution of Puzzle No. 15,763



on sacred and profane themes. Whitworth Art Gallery, University of Manchester, Whitworth Park, Manchester, 12.15.

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The Times list of best-selling books

Hardback
The Holy Blood and the Holy Grail, Michael Baigent, Richard Leigh and Henry Lincoln, £8.95
The Flight of the Condor, Richard Smith, £12.95
The White Hotel, Michael Andrews, £12.95
Invitation To A Royal Wedding, D. M. Thomas, £2.95
Hugh Johnson's Pocket Wine Book, Salomon Rushdie, £3.95
Midnight's Children, Salman Rushdie, £7.95
Whitaker's Almanack 1982, K. Williams, £2.95
The Last Waltz in Vienna, George Clare, £2.95

Paperback
The Times list is based on trade sales through Hamlyn's to 400 bookshops and verified retail sales through eight Hamlyn's bookshops and 50 others.

Latest pamphlets

Family Holiday Guide. This is the thirtieth year of publication of this useful guide to holiday accommodation, specially suited for parents, babies and children, in both hotels and self-catering. The publisher, Jonathan Lewis, of 10, Duke of Devonshire Gardens, London, has received more than 1,000 letters of appreciation. They concluded that spouting letters are a low priority for many tourists. The guide, however, is a low priority for many tourists. The guide, however, is a low priority for many tourists.

The Pound

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Norway Kr 11.41
Portugal Esc 200.00
Spain Ptas 166.64
Sweden Kr 11.01
Switzerland Fr 2.20
USA \$ 1.19
Yugoslavia Din 93.00

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Portugal Esc 200.00
Spain Ptas 166.64
Sweden Kr 11.01
Switzerland Fr 2.20
USA \$ 1.19
Yugoslavia Din 93.00

Weather

A trough of low pressure will move into N and W Britain during the day.

6 am to midnight

London, SE, E England, E Anglia, E Midlands: Fog patches clearing slowly, sun visible, becoming clearer later, wind SW, light; max temp 5C (41F), but 1C (34F) in foggy areas.

Central S, NW, Central W, NE England, W Midlands: Sunny periods, some fog patches, becoming clearer later, perhaps some rain at first; max temp 7C (45F).

SW England, Wales: Bright at first, some fog patches likely, becoming clearer later, sun visible; max temp 8C (46F).

SE, E England, E Anglia, E Midlands: Fog patches clearing slowly, sun visible, becoming clearer later, wind SW, light; max temp 5C (41F), but 1C (34F) in foggy areas.

Lighting up time

London 6.01 pm to 6.25 am
Birmingham 6.01 pm to 6.25 am
Manchester 6.01 pm to 6.25 am
Preston 6.01 pm to 6.25 am

Highest and lowest

Highest day max: Aberdeen airport 10C (50F); lowest day min: Brixia, Rome, 1C (34F); highest night min: London, 1C (34F); lowest night min: London, 1C (34F).

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